

Traveling in Politics and Friendship

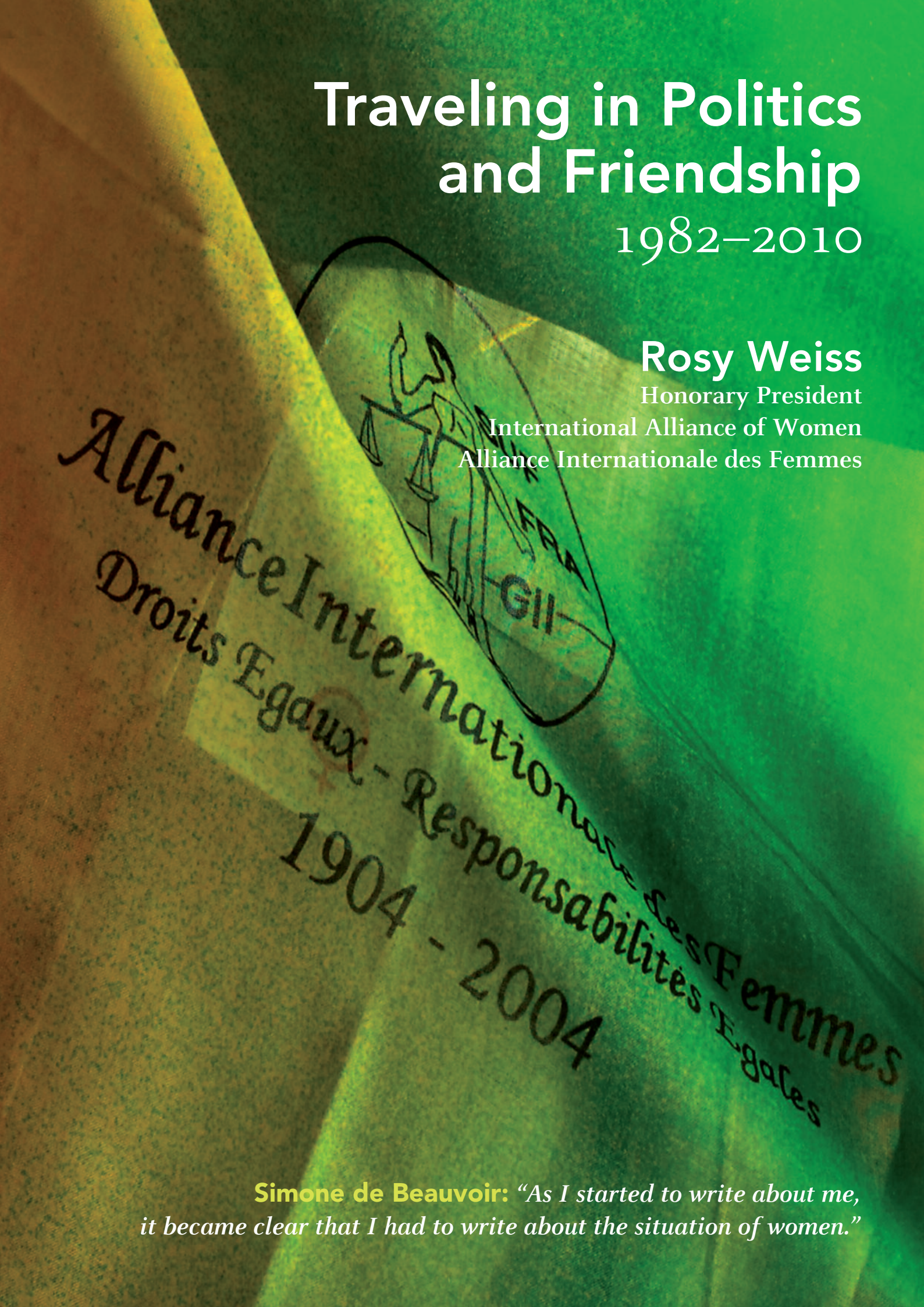
1982–2010

Rosy Weiss

Honorary President

International Alliance of Women

Alliance Internationale des Femmes



Alliance Internationale des Femmes
Droits Egaux - Responsabilites Egales
1904 - 2004

Simone de Beauvoir: *“As I started to write about me,
it became clear that I had to write about the situation of women.”*

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The attached lists are drawn from my private archive (AW) without any claim to completeness. They are intended to show the extraordinary range of IAW's activities and themes during the period of reporting. Quotations are in green italics.

**The Human Rights of Women and of
the Girl-Child are an inalienable,
integral and indivisible part of
universal human rights.**

World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna,
June 1993

Introduction

This manuscript presents a herstory of the developments of the Alliance since the 1980s, as witnessed by me and recalled from my personal memories supported by various documents of my private archives. I intend to recall an important period of my life, to share it with my family and friends, and to show how gratifying volunteer work for the Alliance can be.

But what I want first and foremost is to pay tribute to the women of the Alliance, who in the past made dreams of franchise and equality become true, women who also crossed my path during the period of this reporting and influenced my thinking. Women, with their mostly unknown lives and the private and professional difficulties they had to overcome in a world not created for them. I needed to know their lives, their problems, the decisions they had to take, the reasons for these decisions, their thinking and writing. I had to discover their courage and strength to free themselves from tradition, from chains apparently so “natural”.

At the celebration of 20 years “Ariadne” (the documentation centre for feminist and women as well as gender specific literature of the Austrian National Library), March 6, 2012, Alice Schwarzer, in her keynote address, encouraged me in this direction. In light of French feminists of the early 70s she remembered her own early years as an activist, starting “at the zero hour”. Only after having had the opportunity to visit libraries and archives, **they discovered the rich world and impressive work of the early feminists.** And Alice asked: Why is it so that women always have to reinvent the wheel? Why are we not aware of the shoulders upon which we could build? Her answer: Because women never had the opportunity to get into HIStory.

This is the reason why in every one of my speeches during my years as IAW President and beyond I tried to remember the women of a given country or association who had been active in the women’s movement. To name them, I thought, will

contribute to remembering them, to keep their work alive for future generations of women. What do young women of today, with their rights for which our foremothers and my generation fought so intensely, feel when they hear women say “but I am not a feminist” or business women say “but I am strictly against a quota”? Will they still remember women who had to fight for every single right to become reality? Will my generation be able to become role models, or will it be fashion models, those fake women of male fantasy?

International Background

The period covered in this booklet seems to me a very interesting one – from various points of view. Historic developments such as the fall of the iron curtain in 1989, the creation of the European Union (1993) and the end of Apartheid in 1994, reshuffled the lives of millions of people. Within the realm of women’s fight for equality, important steps have seen the light, internationally and nationally.

But, before we start with my personal recollection during the second half of the United Nations Women’s Decade (1975–1985), let us take some time for a short summary of a long history:

IAW and the UN

IAW’s first Congress after World War II took place in 1946 in Interlaken, Switzerland. It brought the revival of the Alliance after the war. Dr. Hannah Rydh (Sweden) became President. In September 1948 the Third Assembly of the United Nations met in Paris, and Dr. Rydt, Hon. President Margery Corbett Ashby (UK), and Maître Andrée Lehmann (F) met to represent the Alliance. In March 1949 Dr. Rydt went to Beirut to attend the UN Status of Women Commission’s 3rd session.



UN General Assembly Hall

There in Paris the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted, “*which embodied all the principles of equality for which the Alliance had been fighting since the turn of the century. The Declaration was a decisive victory. For the first time in human history the peoples of the earth had pledged themselves to recognise women as equal with men, entitled to enjoy political, civil, and economic rights, security and liberty. It was of such significance that it could be said to modify the whole character of the*

*Alliance' work. From now on the Declaration could be used as the vindication of every demand for equality"*¹. "During the fifties and sixties, the Alliance was working increasingly with the United Nations. This was greatly facilitated by its having been accorded consultative status category B with ECOSOC, the UN Economic and Social Council in 1947. The Alliance worked mainly with the advisory commissions of ECOSOC, on Human Rights, Social Matters and Status of Women, and the specialised agencies, mainly the International Labour Organisation and the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The Alliance was able to provide a two-way channel between its affiliated societies from nearly fifty countries of the world and the United Nations. Communication from affiliates was through their own liaison officers to the chairmen of the special committees, while affiliates were able, by communicating with the Alliance HQ to propose subjects that they would like discussed by UN commissions and agencies"².



Eleanor Roosevelt

The Alliance acting as umbrella organization

The principal event of the International Women's Year 1975 was the international meeting in Mexico City from 19 June to 2nd July, the first of 4 international women's conferences. The "Tribune" was a meeting for all, attended by over 6.000 women and men from all over the world, including representatives of 113 non-governmental organisations. IAW President Irene de Lipkowsky chaired one of the 35 formally convened meetings of the "Tribune" and many IAW members actively participated in the formal and the 192 informal meetings. The results of this world conference are known: A Declaration on the equality of women and their contribution to development and peace, and the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year³, with 34 Resolutions supplementing the Declaration and the Plan of Action. As Arnold Whittick writes on the outcome: *"As all three are mainly repetitious of what the International Alliance of Women had been advocating for the best part of the half century, it is unnecessary to give the Declaration, Plan of Action and Resolutions in any detail"*.

My recollection starts in the second half of the **United Nations Women's Decade** (1975–1985), in a period in which the **World Plan of Action**³ of the **First World Con-**

1 Journey Towards Freedom. Written for the Golden Jubilee of the International Alliance of Women by Adele Schreiber and Margaret Mathieson. Denmark 1955

2 Women into Citizen. Arnold Whittick. Athenaeum with Frederick Muller. London 1979

3 E/CONF/66/34

ference on Women, Mexico City 1975, was due for implementation. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women (later renamed the UN Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM) and INSTRAW, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women had already been established.

The **Second World Conference on Women, Copenhagen 1980**, reviewed progress made during the first half of the Decade and adopted a **Programme of Action**⁴.

The **Third Women's Conference** at the end of the decade, 1985, adopted the **Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies (FLS)**⁵, calling for increased participation of women as equal partners with men in all political, social and economic fields, including their full access to education and training.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against (CEDAW), our women's rights convention came into effect in 1981 with the required ratification by 20 countries. **Violence against women**, and in particular domestic violence was still a widely unreflected evil – therefore largely absent in the Convention, except for trafficking and exploitation of women (art.6 – see also Dorothea Baumhaus' (G) article in IWN Vol 87 No 2/1992 „Getting Violence into CEDAW”). Having contributed to the introduction of this issue to the agenda of multilateral negotiation bodies, such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women or the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is one of IAW's success stories during the 80s. In this regard IAW played a particularly prominent role during the **7th UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders**, held in the Milanofiori Congress Centre from August 26 to September 6, 1985. The ancillary workshop which I had the honour to moderate, was sponsored by IAW together with the International Council of Women (ICW), the International Abolitionist Federation (AIF), the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE) and All India Women's Conference (AIWC). Eminent speakers such as the Executive-Secretary of the Congress, Minoru Shikita and Virginia Sauerwein, chief of the UN NGO unit made important statements. From the IAW side Ethia Simha, Sassa Mochos and Chana Elroy (WIZO) contributed to the success of the meeting. I had the opportunity to read out part of the contribution of Hilda Tweedy, Convenor of the IAW International Understanding Commission (IRL). Alice Marangopoulos (GR, Tenth IAW President, 1989–1996) and Dorothea Baumhaus also were of great support⁶. The resolution, co-sponsored by over 30 NGOs and unanimously adopted in Milan on August 29 1985 during the ancillary meeting, recommends urgent action by United Nations member states to prevent domestic violence and give appropriate help to victims. The resolu-

4 A/CONF/94/35

5 A/CONF.116/28/Rev.

6 IWN 4/1985, IWNNews Centenary Edition 2004, page 82. Documentation of the ancillary meeting: Archives Weiss (AW).

tion was submitted to delegates and co-sponsored by Australia, Israel and the USA, as a recommendation to the UN General Assembly.

In 1990, the series of 5-years World Women Conferences was broken, as governments decided to only hold an “**Extended Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**”⁷. Priorities had changed. In preparation of the NGO Consultation prior to the CSW session, I succeeded with the help of the NGO Planning Committee in securing a grant for the presence of Prisca Molotsi (Zambia) at both gatherings amounting to USD 2.000⁸.

With the first of the big UN World Conferences during the 90s, the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development** (UNCED, Rio, 1992), concern for the environment and the concept of **sustainable development** started to influence international and national thinking as well as personal behaviour.

Despite major resistance from several member states and the Vatican, important texts on adequate health care, adolescents, maternal care, family planning services, and maternal mortality were issued in 1994 by the **International Conference on Population and Development**, Cairo (ICPD). The **World Social Summit**, Copenhagen 1995, the **World Food Summit**, Rome 1995, and **HABITAT** (Second UN Conference on Human Settlements), Istanbul 1996, contributed major texts to the advancement of women. Last, but not least, the world community finally decided in 1993 at the **World Conference on Human Rights** in Vienna to consider **women’s rights as human rights**⁹. This certainly was the second golden period of feminism after the successful fight for women’s enfranchisement in most parts of the world. Global attention was there, legal and financial support provided, what on earth could hinder women to fly?

Yet slowly, gradually, the negotiation climate started to worsen. The preparatory process for UNCED 1992, in my opinion, opened Pandora’s Box when the UN accepted the participation in the conference of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) not in consultative status, a status of responsibility towards the UN and its own membership based on the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is not astonishing that the number of NGOs wishing to participate in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, for instance, has become so overwhelming in the meantime that it goes beyond the Secretariat’s capacity. At Beijing+15, for instance, a total of 3.440 NGO representatives from 138 countries

7 E/1990/25

8 Documents Archives Weiss – AW

9 World Conference on Human Rights: Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 25 June 1993. See IWN 1/2007

attended, representing 463 organisations from which 425 were ECOSOC accredited NGOs and 38 from those NGOs that were accredited to the Beijing Conference, or to the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.¹⁰

The result: the number of NGO delegations is being gradually limited, the important informal “corridor” contacts with delegates are being made impossible and, above all, WINGOs (women’s international NGOs) in consultative status are losing access to UN premises. As a side-effect, umbrella organizations such as the International Alliance of Women are losing member associations. Why should they join IAW when they can participate in any UN event on their own?

As a counterweight to this declining influence of international NGOs, we have been witnessing the appearance of the notion of “civil society”, that has become so important that even the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations in Consultative Status with the UN, CONGO, organizes “Civil Society Consultations”. WINGOs are now being considered part of the so-called CSOs (civil society organisations), encompassing also business, academia, religions, etc. In reality this means that an unpaid, voluntary NGO representative has to negotiate in international fora on exactly the same level as, for instance, a paid delegate from a big multinational or a religious pressure group.

Traveling in Politics and Friendship

As I started to write these memoirs on my 75th birthday by going through my archives and albums, I come across a picture taken in Beijing, February 1982, where I am blowing out the candles of my birthday cake during a reception at the Austrian Embassy. I turned 44! At that time, I already had three children, had survived breast cancer and was determined to start again: as a working mom and as a negotiator and traveling diplomat for the Alliance.



¹⁰ The figures for Beijing+10 are close to 600 NGOs and more than 2700 individual NGO participants.

A deadly threat such as cancer, ending happily in complete recovery (after a period of 10 years of uncertainty), has surprising consequences. It boils you down to what really matters in your life. Incidentally, but not coincidentally, I started to read the “Beitraege zur Feministischen Theorie und Praxis” (contributions to feminist theory and practice)¹¹ during recovery. They were eye-openers and influence my thinking until today. At the same time, Johanna Dohnal, the great Austrian feminist and first female State-Secretary and later first Austrian Minister for Women’s Affairs intro-



Sigrid Stadler and Johanna Dohnal

duced me to Sigrid Stadler, then Director of the Institute for Study in Salzburg, whom the elderly of us all knew. Until its closure years ago, after Sigrid’s death, the Institute was one of IAW’s associate members and helped me organize the International Meeting in Vienna, 2001.

When Johanna Dohnal brought us together in early 1982, Sigrid had a fully-fledged project for a seminar on the physical and psychological aspects of women’s health in her drawer. She also had the connections to American universities for speakers – but no money. In July the same year we had raised enough money and support from Austrian Ministries (health and women’s affairs), from the province and town of Salzburg, and excellent scholars and speakers from Harvard and Richmond Universities, the University of Stockholm, the University of Copenhagen, the World Health Organisation, and from Austrian Social Partners. We were ready to go. This was the beginning of a successful cooperation and was succeeded by three other seminars on the “Value of Women’s Work” (1984), on “Interdependence of Women and Men”¹² (1987), and on “No Democracy without Women” (1994)¹³.

By chance, I received one of Brigitte Pross (G, prominent IAW personality and permanent representative to UN Vienna) messages to a Ms Weiss in 1982, asking for IAW representation to the UN Vienna. I responded positively – and this was the beginning of a wonderful friendship and a life-long commitment.

According to the papers that Brigitte Pross, my dear IAW mother, left me at one of her frequent visits to Vienna, a **Workshop of the European IAW member organisations was held in Copenhagen, from September 28 to 30, 1984, in preparation of the third International Women’s Conference and Forum 1985, Nairobi, Kenya.**

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11 Hsg. Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschung und Praxis für Frauen e.V., 1978 Verlag Frauenoffensive München

12 See report Rosy Weiss in French, IWN 4/1987

13 Reports: AW

Resolutions (translation from Pross' German text)

Peace, equal treatment of every human being and economic independence; ratification and implementation of ILO Convention no. 111 on discrimination in the work place; women to be considered in law as individuals independently of their family status or sexual orientation; women to gain control over their bodies, including access to all forms of family planning; request for a UN conference on medical technologies, in particular ethic technology with 50 per cent female participation; free access to education, in particular primary education for all women; quota system (25 per cent women in governments as well as public and private bodies); paid full-time jobs for all women; economic independence; reduction of weekly working hours for women and men; particular attention and special legislation needed for single mothers and migrant women; direct participation in all decision-making processes concerning financing for developing countries; a women's ministry in every country; data collection reflecting every aspect of female realities, including those "invisible", yet important parts of a woman's life; and finally the request for a second women's decade and mid-term conference.

As a linguist it became obvious to me that I had to first clear my thinking on the place of women in the German language, my mother tongue. I therefore participated in a **workshop organized by the Deutsche Frauenring (German Women's Council) and the Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnen in Berlin (German Female Citizens) in Berlin 1985.**

Dr. Senta Trömel-Plötz from the University of Constance offered a feminist analysis of the German language and discussed violence against women in language. Sexism was also the theme of the presentation of Prof. Fern L. Johnson from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA. This seminar was another eye-opener for me, in particular, the workshop illustrating male dominance in discourse. By that time, I had enough personal experience, had acquired enough knowledge and had been inspired by IAW to the degree as to know where I wanted to go and what direction I wanted to take for the coming years.



With Joke Sebus in Berlin

IAW's XXVII Congress was held in Mauritius, July 20–30, 1986¹⁴, and unfortunately for family and professional reasons I was not able to attend. Papers in my possession are too important not to be mentioned in this overview.

¹⁴ Report, AW

Workshop on "Attitudes towards new responsibilities".

Irmgard Rimondini (CH, former main representative to the UN headquarters, Geneva), Background paper on women and health for Congress, July 1986, based on the Nairobi FLS: *1. Health education should be geared towards changing attitudes, values and actions which are discriminatory and detrimental to women's and girl's health; 2. Women should be involved in the planning and implementation of public health projects to provide water and sanitation. They should also be consulted with regards to the technologies used and trained in the maintenance of supply systems. 3. Women should have access to and control over income to provide adequate nutrition for themselves and their children; 4. Occupational health and safety should be enhanced by the public and private sectors and concern focused on risks endangering women's reproductive capabilities and unborn children.*

Annette Wagnière, (CH, Convenor of the Economic Commission and former IAW treasurer) to the Congress on strategies for the coming triennium: *Moral and financial recognition of the economic value of women's work in marital, property and inheritance laws; economic independence of women by closing the pay-gap (equal pay for work of equal value); payment of pensions and other entitlements directly to women; child care infrastructure and flexible working hours, including better part-time regulations for women with family and employment responsibilities; motivation of women to take part in every educational and training possibilities in order to facilitate their participation in the economic development of their respective countries; equal access to land, income and credits including training in marketing skills and technology; positive action, such as quotas.*

Hilda Tweedy, (IRE, Convenor, Commission on peace through international understanding) Resolutions submitted to Congress: *1. the IAW in Congress assembled in Mauritius in July 1986 urges its affiliates to promote peace through respect for human rights and values and through the resolution of conflict without recourse to violence or terrorism. 2. The IAW welcomes the Declaration "Intolerance – a Threat to Democracy" adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe at its 68th Session and recommends its affiliates to support activities which foster tolerance and respect for human rights and traditional cultures. 3. The IAW while welcoming what has been done in the Decade to improve the conditions of women, believes that much remains to be done; special emphasis must be given to ensuring peace as a concomitant of development and equality. 4. The IAW urges its affiliates to urge their governments to include the teaching of human rights and the resolution of conflict without recourse to violence in the curriculum of all schools at all levels of education.*

Grete Borgmann, (G), Convenor of the IAW Education Commission presented a draft for a Regional Pilot Solar Seminar, an initiative decided upon at Congress in Mauritius

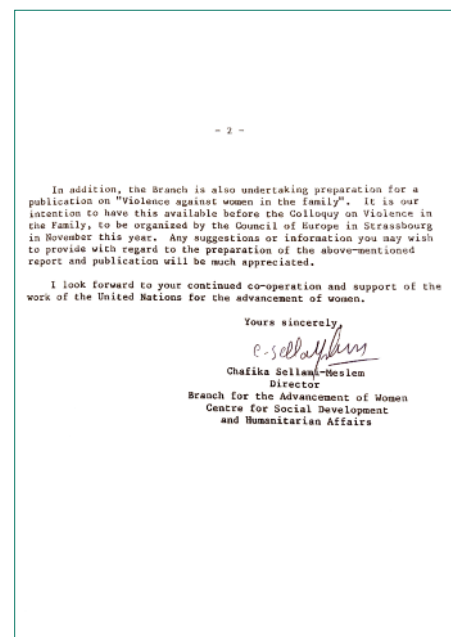
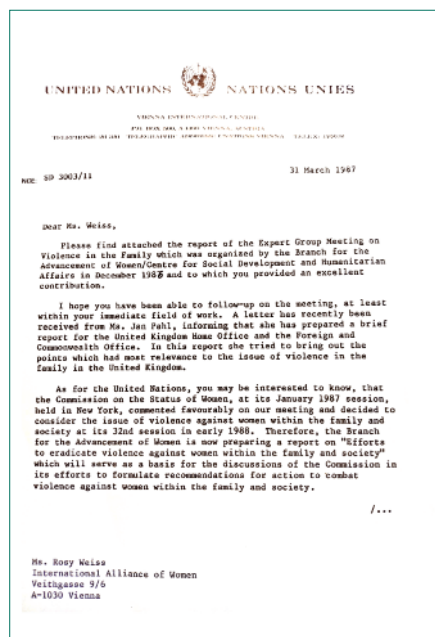
in 1979. She also refers to another decision: to issue an educational passport as an encouragement to women to restart learning after interruption. Other major activities concern lifelong education according to life phases and restart learning programmes.

The **Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs** (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) organized an Expert Group Meeting at the Vienna International Centre from December 8 to 12, 1986 on “Violence in The Family with special emphasis on its Effects on Women” to which IAW contributed a consultant report on “The Role of Education, Socialization, The Media, Medicine, Community Action, Women’s Organizations in Combatting Domestic Violence with reference To Violence Against Women by The Criminal Justice System”.

Co-authors: Chana Elroy, Brigitte Pross, Grete Borgmann, Inge Heyl (G), Dorothea Baumhaus and Rosy Weiss¹⁵.

Issues already addressed at this stage were, among others, peaceful conflict resolution, a call for a realistic and true picture of women in the media, rape in marriage, the call for legal provisions for compensating victims and prohibiting violence in the family, reflections on male values, against sexist advertisement, a call for specially trained policemen, for legal assistance free of charge, for a person of the victim’s confidence in all proceedings, the need for more and specially trained policewomen, female judges, for ex officio prosecution. IAW stressed the crucial role of women’s organizations as first help agents, but also as pressure groups, by raising awareness of the problems and by creating embarrassment.

Among the Brigitte Pross papers I also treasure the contribution of the **IAW Civil and Political Rights Commission** (under the leadership of Karen S. Brynnildsen,



Norway) to the drafting of the IAW Action Programme 1986, with reference to the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and CEDAW. Important points raised were the dissemination of information on the existing national and international instruments securing women's rights; the creation of national machineries and action plans; the call to abolish discriminatory regulations and practice; a call for a quota system, and, of course, encouraging women to take decision-making positions in the mass media.

I vaguely remember one or two earlier visits to London when Brigitte Pross took me with her to IAW meetings. Unfortunately, I left these meetings undocumented. Yet, in my recollection of the **Board meeting in July 1987 at Regents College**, I see Pat



Olive Bloomer

Goble (AU) there together with Bothaina Mohammed (Sudan/Egypt), Amy Bush, Laurel Casinader, Hilda Tweedy, Brigitte Pross, Marijke Peters (NL, former Archives officer), Margaret Ingledew, Alice Marangopoulos, Annette Wagnière, Padmini Casinader, Chana Elroy, Constance Rower (UK, mother of Helen Self), Helen Whittick (UK, editor IWNNews from 1962 to 1982), Irène de Lipkowski (F, Eighth President IAW, 1973–1979), Lilian Mushoka, Inge Heyl, Grete Borgmann, Kay Fraleigh and Olive Bloomer (UK, Ninth President, 1979–1989) among others.

As you can imagine – I was very intimidated! It may not come as a surprise for people who know me that my only clear memory of that stay is the sight of the dome of the Royal Albert Hall right in front of my

little student's room at the Royal College of Music, where organisers had put me in for my short stay. As it was during holidays, there were no concerts, unfortunately. But there is a distinct memory of a rehearsal of Verdi's Requiem with the "Dies Irae" in the air ... And some Vivaldi music played by three youngsters on my way to the tube ... Wonderful, surprising London!

A short report of the meeting in July 1987 appeared in IWN Vol 82, No 3/1987. This report in the IWNNews is interesting to read. Besides mentioning the usual reports from various office holders, special attention is drawn to the Treasurer's Report (Marijke Peters) which „came like a shower of cold water". (A year later IAW had to close down its London office!). A new Committee was formed to plan and organise seminars and workshops, chaired by President Olive Bloomer.

A communications network was to be set up, particularly to reach young members. (Does this still sound familiar today?)

In 1987 IAW conducted a **Survey on the “Family”** among its then 63 affiliated and 10 associated societies in 56 countries. 24 replies were returned from 19 countries, 8 from the developing, 16 from the so-called developed world. Questions concerned importance of and changes in family life, position on a possible year of the family, a possible declaration on family rights, among others. Not surprisingly, the replies granted deep insights into the complexity of the “family” according to the various cultures and traditions. Support to individual family members opposed to the family as a unit, for instance, was clearly preferred by Norway and Sri Lanka, yet for totally different reasons. Whereas the Norwegian position ended up in a clear “No” to an International Year of the Family, Sri Lanka voted in favour, reasoning that it sees such a year as a chance for consciousness- and awareness-raising for women and men which “may lead to redefining family rights and responsibilities”.¹⁶

1987: Designation of IAW as Peace Messenger by UN Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar. Irmgard Rimondini received the certificate on behalf of IAW at the UN Office in Geneva on September 15, 1987. IAW also congratulated its affiliated, the All-Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) for its designation as peace messenger¹⁷.

Dipl.Dolm. Rosa-Anna Weiss starts working for the Austrian Government (Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family Affairs).

The first ever major IAW event I attended (together with my dear friend the late Monika Plail, A) was the **International Committee Meeting in Freiburg, August 25 to 28, 1988.**

The Deutsche Frauenring organised a workshop on „Role Stereotypes, Role Expectations and the Daily Reality of Women’s Lives”¹⁸, which was followed by an International Youth Forum and the statutory Board Meeting. These beautiful and interesting days in Freiburg were preceded by a visit to the Council of Europe and a meeting there on „The Increasing Importance of Women in North-South Cooperation”¹⁹.



Monika and Rosy in Freiburg, impressed by the unexpected presence of Empress Maria Theresia!

¹⁶ Analysis (Dorothea Baumhaus, Weiss), questionnaire and replies: AW

¹⁷ AW

¹⁸ IWN 3/1988

¹⁹ IWN 4/1988

In Freiburg I gave one of the most personal interventions under the title „**European women between self-image, role expectations and daily reality**“²⁰.

European women are being educated to become self-assured and self-confident, and all along childhood and youth European societies make them believe that they are entitled to fulfilment in private and professional life. Here is a wonderful job description of the average European and American women taken from a book by Johanna Ross: „I know that somewhere lives a beautiful wife, an intellectual, gracious, cultivated, charming woman, who has 8 children, bakes her own bread, cakes and pies, takes care of her own house, does her own cooking, brings up her own children, holds down a demanding nine to five job at the top decision making level in the man’s field and is adored by her equally successful husband. Although a hard-driving, aggressive business executive, with eyes of an eagle, heart of a lion, tongue of an Adam and muscles of a gorilla and looks like Kirk Douglas, when she comes home at night, she is supposed to slip into a flimsy negligé and turn instantly into a playboy dimwit. She laughingly displays the myth that you can be 8 people simultaneously with two different sets of value. She has not lost either her femininity nor her career“. Good for our bodies and souls if we are able to realize the sooner the better that this picture of a super woman is a dream and not a role model.

And I continue in my speech by depicting the everyday reality in family and employment in the 80s: *The comparison of women’s and men’s time budget in the private sphere; the seemingly ineradicable pay gap in employment; women’s unemployment; the low rate of women in decision-making. After so many years it is interesting to read my forecast: An increasing number of women will tend to become financially (and emotionally) independent, increasing tendency to shorten childcare intervals, increasing divorce rates, diminishing birth rates, increasing number of couples living together and children born out of wedlock, increasing number of singles and increasing number of women headed households. Politicians, churches seemed to know the answer: The family is ill. Hence the discussion – also at the level of the United Nations – to look for strategies to help families. Measures proposed varied of course according to ideological and party policy orientations but were mainly based on demographic considerations. I considered myself not a prophet to predict that measures such as money for a mother who stays at home, half-hearted tax exemptions, raising traditional marriage and family into constitutional rank, etc. would not be able to incite the majority of European women to really consider a change in priorities and values. What would do the trick, however, would be available and affordable childcare facilities, all-day schooling, flexibility of opening hours and working hours; planning and con-*

²⁰ Manuscript, AW, German, English

struction corresponding to the needs of children, infrastructure corresponding to the needs of families, making visible the invisible and unrewarded family work in the framework of a new definition of work in general, to name only the most important.

Half of my professional life I have tried to get some of these standpoints through bureaucratic and political resistance from my positions in Austrian Ministries. Considering the situation today is enough to make me bitter and angry. Maybe this explains my impatience with the women's movement and the little enthusiasm I can afford for so many activities undertaken just for the sake of doing something without any punch nor real commitment.

Preparing for the International Meeting in Freiburg, Dorothea Baumhaus helped me to write an analysis of the answers to the **IAW Questionnaire on the Family** (answers still with me, will be handed over – among others – to ATRIA, our Archives in Amsterdam). Here is the proposal for an IAW approach: *“While striving to enhance and protect basic rights, fundamental freedom, dignity and integrity of women, including full respect to the need to enhance and protect the unity of the family as the basic unit of society, to work for transformation of existing family laws and policies in order to achieve a change of values and norms and aiming at enhanced compatibility of individual, societal and family rights and responsibilities as well as family work and obligations for both, women and men.”* To this approach an important wording was later added: *“the family as the basic unit of society, bearing in mind that different forms of family exist”*. I still consider this the best possible international family policy of IAW. An important IAW statement on the social situation of families based on the results of the Survey of National Policies for Families was held to the UN Commission for Social Development, March 1989²¹. Its key sentence *“It is the firm belief of this Organization that in any consideration for policy regarding families it is of the utmost importance to uphold the principles of democratic rule in intra-family relations and of mutual respect, support, rights and obligations among family members of the same or of two or more generations as the case may be”*.

Kay Fraleigh's (prominent IAW personality, former IAW Vice-President and permanent representative to UN New York) presentation on „Policy and Action of the IAW” triggered the interesting proposal to establish an IAW „Who's Who”. In IWN Vol 83 No 4/1988 Margaret Ingledew gives a delightful résumé of the social aspects of the Freiburg events, including a meeting in the 16th century Kaufmann's House, a reception by the Lord Mayor, a visit to the Colombischlössle, a concert with 15th and 16th century songs and a tour into the Black Forest. Her conclusion: „The Gift Stall (sale of donations for the benefit of the organisation) made £ 800!”.

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Margaret Ingledew (right) and her sister Barbara Mathieson (left), familiar faces for us, the elderly ones, at so many IAW gatherings. Second cousins to Dame Margery Corbett Ashby.

According to Eva Schneider-Borgmann's (G) report from the workshop, *the main demands were: Society must provide day nurseries, pre-schools and day schooling to set women free for job training and to pursue a professional career; the parallelism „power – man” and „responsibility – woman” must be overcome. Women must occupy half of the professional sphere and men half of the domestic sphere. No longer should women define their role as subordinate and inferior; society has a chance to overcome and survive, only if future generations, both women and men, have social competence and take care of the environment.*

As a personal secretary to IAW President Corbett Ashby (1923–1946), Margaret handled her correspondence – among other subjects the correspondence concerning the imprisonment of the Czech Board member Frantiska Plaminkova in 1938 – and accompanied Corbett Ashby to the IAW Congress 1935 in Istanbul. The subjects discussed there sound very familiar: forced labour, child marriage, prostitution, the acquisition of girls by purchases disguised as payment of dowries and the need for an equitable division of labour between women and men. (See obituary by Helen Self and Marijke Peters in IWN 3/2000). My personal memory of Margaret dates back to one of the London meetings, when, discovering that I came from Vienna, she immediately recalled a boat trip in her youth with friends down the Danube to Vienna. After landing near the Reichsbrücke, she told me, they changed their outfits and went – properly dressed – to discover Vienna.

From May 8 to 14, 1989, I visited **Tunisia** upon invitation of the then director of the **Espace Sophonisbe**, the Tunisian writer and feminist, Jélila Hafsia, whom I had met in the corridors of the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where I have represented the Alliance since 1983. I did three lectures in Tunis: At the Espace Sophonisbe **„United Nations – Governments – Women's Organisations: Concerted Action for Women”**; **„The Work of the Alliance within the United Nations”** and **„Monitoring the implementation of CEDAW”** at the National Union of Tunisian Women. Again, in Espace Sophonisbe I participated in the Round Table on **„Women's work during the present economic situation”**.

In my lecture I gave an overview over 43 years of IAW work for the advancement of women with the United Nations with particular emphasis on the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies. Other main points were CEDAW, women's rights as human rights, the necessity of women's legal literacy, the establishment of national machineries for the advancement of women and the collection of reliable data. *Policymaking*, I concluded, *is to make decisions according to the values of a given society. Women were far too long treated as objects and*



Rosy presents IAW in Tunisia

*not as subjects, far too long values and attitudes have been impinged upon them, far too long they have been defined by others and not by themselves. In fact, it is the power of definition that I am describing and claiming. I consider as important to make them visible, their work, their contributions to society. But not only visible but valued at the same level as the contribution of men. This would then represent the best indicator for good governance*²².

In 1989, IAW addressed the 31st session of the **UN Commission for Social Development**, assembled in Vienna, in an **oral statement** on the social situation of families, commenting on the "Results of the Survey of National Policies for Families"²³.

After having missed the **Congress in Mauritius**, unfortunately, where my organization, the Frauenzirkel Austria, was accepted as a new associate member organization, I was all too happy to fly to Australia with Monika Plail for **IAW's XXVIIIth Congress, held in Melbourne from September 22 to October 3, 1989** upon invitation by the Women's Electoral Lobby, the League of Women Voters and Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia. Equality the Continuing Challenge was the catchword at Melbourne. **"Assuming our responsibilities – Claiming our rights"**. An international panel "Think Globally – Act Locally" was led by Kay Fraleigh and Una Ellis (Australian member) and a seminar on development and empowerment was the culmination of the involvement of the Women's Electoral Lobby in the proceedings of the Congress²⁴.

The following General Declaration was issued: *"Now that practically all countries have accorded the vote to women as well as the opportunity to stand for Parliament, our Alliance aims to achieve real equality of the sexes in the spheres of politics, edu-*

²² AW

²³ E/CN.5/1989/4

²⁴ Draft programme, list of participants, report, minutes Board meeting, copy President's speech: AW

*cation, employment, moral standards and general status. ... We believe that what ought to be done can be done, and that if the women of the world join hands together, we shall all be able to leave the world a better and more peaceful place.”*²⁵

Margaret Ingledew’s International Stall, where typical national items contributed by Congress delegates were sold to benefit IAW, raised £ 774! and an additional appeal during Congress raised £ 835!) as Marijke Peters reported in IWN Vol 84 No 4/1989. Una Ellis, with twenty years of UN experience mentioned economic security as essential for freedom of choice. Kay Fraleigh defined the challenge. *The political challenge, she said, „is to achieve equal political representation everywhere using the quota system. The economic challenge will be to achieve international acknowledgement of the work women do and to make it visible, as all unpaid work has been kept out of statistics. The social challenge is the pressing need for support systems for single-parent families, the disabled, the old and the battered. The educational challenge, finally, is to reduce the growing number of illiterate women and to provide education as a basic tool for women’s equality.* Other major outcomes included



Unforgettable visit to Phillip Island!

the change of presidency from Olive Bloomer to Alice Marangopoulos, the decision to revise our Constitution, an increase in membership fees and the adoption of the Action Programme 1989–1992. At that time the Alliance had 59 affiliates and ten associated societies. I reported on the UN meetings in Vienna attended by the IAW representatives. Proudly I returned to Vienna as one of the 24 members elected to the IAW Board.

Before booking our flight tickets in Vienna, Monika and I had decided that as good Viennese music lovers we had to fly over to Sydney for a performance in the wonderful opera house. Unfortunately, the day we had to

take the plane Australian domestic airline went on strike and we had to take the greyhound to Sydney.

What an experience! At three in the morning, we stopped for a little rest in the middle of nowhere (as it seemed to us – sorry, dear Aussies). But what a clear night and the Southern Cross above our heads! Unforgettable. The first thing after arrival in Sydney – keeping the opera in mind – we went to bed. Not exactly, one of us went to bed and the other one went for breakfast and to the hairdresser. And then we switched the roles.

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At lunch we were both ready to explore Sydney, to go out to Manly, dip our feet into the Pacific, visit the Oceanworld (another unique experience, as I have already seen eagles flying over my head but never, ever sharks!).

And – finally – we went to the performance of Vincenzo Bellini's „La Somnambula“. During the interval Monika discovered a door where people disappeared. It was clear, there must be a reception. My Monika – without hesitation – headed to that door. A friendly lady told us that they are having a reception of the friends of the Sydney Opera. „And we are friends of the Vienna Opera“ Monika declared. And in we went and felt very much friends of that beautiful Sydney Opera House.



Melbourne Docklands

1990 – The turn of the decade; World Literacy Year, beginning of the Children's Decade and start of preparations for the fourth and last World Conference of Women. The Alliance became member of the newly founded European Women's Lobby. „Politics and Friendship“, edited by Mineke Bosch, with Annemarie Kloosterman, was published by Ohio State University Press.

The Alliance reassembled in **Reykjavik, Iceland, from June 27 to 29, 1990 for its first Board meeting under President Alice Marangopoulos**²⁶.



Margaret Ingledew, Pat Goble, NN, NN, NN, NN, Inge Heyl, NN, Rosy Weiss, Kay Fraleigh, NN, Terpsi Lambrinopoulou, Hilda Tweedy, NN, Priska Molotsi, NN, Alice Marangopoulos, Amy Bush, Olive Bloomer, Aroti Dutt, Hanah Elroy, Gudrun Haupter, Bothaina Mohammed, Marijke Peters, Padminin Casinader Christiansen

26 Margaret Ingledew in IWN 2/1990

Inge Heyl reported on the outcome of the IAW questionnaires 1986 and 1988 on CEDAW ratification and Constance Rover volunteered to produce the revised Constitution. A discussion about the importance of seminars and other projects was followed by the establishment of the **IAW Seminar and Projects Committee**. The first meeting of this new committee took place October 10, 1990 in London at Amy Bush's flat. Present were Olive Bloomer, Rae Campbell Tanner (UK), Buddy Don



(UK), Hilda Tweedy, Padmini Casinader Christiansen. Excuses came from Caroline McCamley (IRL) and myself. The list of seminars proposed for the period 1991–1992 included a Seminar on CEDAW by the Danish Women's Society, October 25–31, 1991²⁷, and a seminar in the Caribbean in 1992 organised by Nesta Patrick (Trinidad and Tobago, Regional Coordinator).

And, finally, the invitation from the **League of Women Voters of Japan** was accepted to hold the **International Meeting September 1991 in Tokyo**²⁸. Professional obligations prevented me, unfortunately, from going to Japan.

Dear Sachiko! I am sure she had prepared a wonderful conference and warm hospitality in her country. One of the missed opportunities I deeply regret²⁹.

I did, however, attend the **Thirty-Fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women**, Vienna, February 27 to March 8, 1991, where I was to deliver a

very important and timely statement on the situation of women as caregivers under priority theme "equality, vulnerable women, including migrant women"³⁰. After reflections on the overall situation of women as the majority of caregivers, IAW requests assistance and counselling services, awareness-raising programmes and financial support for social security coverage.

Egalitarian Democracy was – and still is – the challenge of feminist policy; it was the very appropriate theme of the **XXIXth Congress, October 4 to 10, 1992 in Athens**³¹ upon invitation of the Greek League for Women's Rights. The notion of

27 See report Helen Self in IWN 1/1992; Report Dansk Kvindesamfund 1992

28 Minutes Board meeting and International Meeting AW

29 See report from Constance Rover in IWN 4/1991

30 AW

31 See WOMAN'S STRUGGLE, the Journal of the Greek League for Women's Rights, 1993.

democracy, as we have learnt from the Athenian City State of the fifth century B.C., where „all citizens” were participants in government – but only free males were classified as citizens – and as we can observe today in so many countries paying lip service to democracy, there cannot be democracy without the respect of women’s rights, without real participation of the people. „Why is it that the removal of legal obstacles in so many countries did not help to eliminate gender disparities? What holds us back” asked Alice Marangopoulos in her opening speech entitled “1902–1992, 90 Years of Struggle for Gender Equality”. Yes, when will CEDAW articles 7 and 8 be fully implemented? Still a heavy workload ahead for the Alliance, even when seen from the perspective of an observer so many years later!



Monika Plail, Sigrid Stadler and Rosy Weiss, the Austrian delegation (Alison not in the picture)

Workshops dealt, among others, with subjects, such as women’s rights and peace and the girl child and the new Action Programme for the years 1992–1995³² was approved.

The theme of Egalitarian (Parity) Democracy was taken forward during a Seminar on October 6 to 7 held in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Among the experts addressing the Seminar was a moving intervention of Mona Korashy of Egypt “Girls Must be Wanted”. Already heart-breaking was her opening statement *“The reception of my birth was completely negative; the only positive aspect was the fact that I might be able to keep away the “evil eye” from my elder brother. Whereas, when my eldest brother was born, he was received with a hail of gunfire and ceremonies which lasted for days”*.

“Hitting the Glass Ceiling” was another of the inspiring interventions. Athena Petraki Kottis, Professor of Economics at the Athens University of Economics and Business spoke on the problem of promotion³³. Almost 30 years later, this intervention would be of equal relevance to the present situation. Not much has changed in the meantime – despite quotas and other supporting instruments.

“Greek Delights” was the title of yet another of Margaret Ingledew’s fine reports. A reception at the Marangopoulos Foundation in Maroussi with Greek folk music was followed by the inaugural ceremony in the Aula Magna of the National University

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33 IWN 4/1992

of Athens, a dinner in the roof garden of the Marriott Hotel, a reception by the Lord Mayor, “Son et Lumière” on the Acropolis, near where St. Paul spoke to the Areopagus, the Council of Athens, two thousand years ago, and finally the closing dinner down by the sea at the Astir Palace Hotel of Vouliagmeni. A day cruise at the Saronic Gulf concluded this outstanding sojourn. According to Margaret, the International Stall made GBP 2,000 – a record!

One of the most important events of the year **1993 was the World Conference for Human Rights, Vienna, June 14 to 25, 1993.** *„The Declaration of the Vienna Conference has clarified some fundamental principles on which, for the first time North and South, West and East have unanimously agreed: universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights including the right to development. Also, all women’s rights aiming at equality have been acknowledged as human rights by a conference in which male delegates were the vast majority. In addition, new procedures are recommended for the protection of women’s rights and particularly the quick examination „of the possibility of introduction of the right of petition through the preparation on an optional protocol to CEDAW. Another point of the Vienna Declaration especially significant for women is the new international rule unanimously adopted which accepts that if there is a conflict between cultural or religious traditions of a country, nation etc. and international admitted human rights rules, the latter must be protected”,* President Marangopoulos writes in her President’s Letter from January 1994.

In an important article “How Universal is Universal?” published in IWN 3/1998, Kay Fraleigh writes: *“The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed the principles of the UN Charter while linking democracy, development and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as independent and mutually reinforcing. The Conference called for the full and equal participation of women in the life of their societies. It also went on to condemn gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation (including those resulting from cultural prejudices and international trafficking) which are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person.”*

Finally, here are extracts from Alison Brown’s informative 17-page long report from inside the conference: *“The Human Rights Conference in Vienna was fraught with symbolism. On the ground floor and above the government delegates and their meeting rooms, underneath the non-governmental organizations. Above the officials mouthing platitudes about the rights of man, below the activists who fight on the front lines of the human condition and who could attest to the situation in their land if they were only given the chance. But above the governments wished only to praise themselves and their records in this area and therefore denied access to any from below who*

might present inconvenient evidence and might expose their hypocrisy. Above the staff of the Conference and the convention centre provided every convenience for the delegations, below the NGOs fended for themselves as best they could. Above the governments had plenty of room, even enough to share with journalists, and a series of relaxing views of the Danube. Below the rooms were in short supply and claustrophobia was the order of the day. Above were Power and Privilege, below Patience, Poverty, and Perseverance. In both cases Patriotisms were expressed, but differently defined. Patriarchy, however, was less well established below than above the stairs."

An enjoyable **Board meeting took place in Lusaka, August 9 to 11, 1993**, upon invitation of the **Zambian Alliance of Women**, accompanied by interesting national gatherings: **A Seminar on Environment and Development and a Workshop for the Training of Trainers**³⁴.



Participants of the Workshop with IAW members at the State House

Brainstorming sessions of the seminar on environment and development³⁵ were organised on land tenure, unplanned urban settlements, polluting industries, deforestation, refuse storage, collection and disposal, population, uncontrolled urbanization, food security, smoking, waste recycling and preservatives. Realizing that early motherhood and frequent pregnancies are detrimental to the health of the women, the workshop recommended that society must be educated on the need for mutual

³⁴ Reports Zambia Alliance of Women in AW

³⁵ Report AW

agreement on matters of family size and spacing of children. Other recommendations to NGOs concerned the sensitization of society for the need to match family size with available resources, to educate men on the value of family planning, to initiate research on traditional family planning methods and to add a family planning component to their programme. On pollution, participants requested EIAs (environmental impact assessment) before establishment of industries, incentives for companies to recycle wherever possible, industries to invest in pollution control technologies, the government to encourage private business garbage collection, and to enforce pollution control laws. On deforestation, the workshop recommended enforcement of laws on environmental protection, that traditional environmental management be looked into, and good practices reinforced, research into alternative renewable energy



Regina and Marieluise Weber with Inge Heyl



Pat Goble's Australian jokes helped us on this adventure with much laughter

sources be carried out and research findings disseminated, that government involves the major forest users in properly managed deforestation programmes and that NGOs involved in forest protection shall be funded. After lengthy discussion on government funding of NGOs, the workshop recommended that more information be made available to NGOs on development funding, that NGOs should venture into bigger fundraising activities such as participation in current privatization of companies and pursue the environment minister's offer to visit him and seek more information on funding and cooperation.

Work done, Pat Goble, Marieluise Weber and her daughter Regina, Inge Heyl, Gudrun Haupter and I decided to book a four-day tour to the Lower Zambesi for enjoyable rest plus wildlife watching. Imagine six women in an open cross-country vehicle sitting on two small benches and surrounded by boxes of food and drinks, only protected

against the cold early morning wind by canvas, shivering, over bumpy streets with big potholes, over half crumbled bridges, rocky brooks, up and down, 4 hours long, while the brochure of the travel agency promised a „comfortable ride”.

Three unforgettable days at the Royal Zambesi Lodge followed, enriched by monkeys, lions, crocodiles, hyaena, hippos, elephants and many, many birds explained by Inge, the bird watcher. An African dream became reality.

European Preparatory Meeting for the 9th UN Congress on Prevention of Crime, held in Vienna, March 1994. In her report³⁶, Alison wondered about the increased interest in a “women’s” issue due to the fact that many governments spoke on the subject of violence against women during the workshop on “prevention of violent crime”. This is, she concludes *“the result of ten years of hard work on the part of IAW, especially Alice Marangopoulos and Rosy Weiss, and some brave activists in a commission (on crime prevention and criminal justice) traditionally dominated by men”*. The IAW statement, a joint effort by Alice, Alison and me, “raised some eyebrows”. It calls for economic independence of women, the opening and adequately funding of shelters, it anticipates what will becoming later Austria’s exemplary banning order (women and children remain at home and are protected from intrusion by the violent family member), and for rehabilitation centres for violent offenders. Attention is drawn to other form of violence, such as FGM, sexual harassment, violence in bonded labour, forced child prostitution, and rape as war-crime. Finally, IAW called for a strong Convention on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

June 19 to 25, 1994 International Meeting in the Netherlands³⁷, Zonhouvel near Doorn, Arnhem, Den Haag and Rotterdam coincided with the centenary celebrations of IAW’s Dutch affiliate the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen and the 75th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the Netherlands.

An important seminar was held at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam on **Effective Strategies and National Machineries**. Five prerequisites were identified. The first being a hospitable political culture, including access to education and the exercise of fundamental freedoms.



Members of Vrouwenbelangen dressed in style and colours of the Dutch suffrage movement

The second being a strong women’s movement, acting as a unity. The third is access to national elites and the fourth is a women’s equality policy network. It is essential to be able to monitor institutions governing development aid. And fifth, there must be policy outputs that the women’s movement can seize on to force an advance³⁸.

36 IWN 2/1994

37 Minutes and “Action Points” AW

38 See „effective strategies” in IWN 3/1994

To my great surprise and joy the **Sri Lanka Women's Conference** invited me to speak at the occasion of its **Diamond Jubilee workshop „Education, Environment, Empowerment“, Colombo, October 1994.**



I was honoured to speak on the vital topic of „empowerment“ and had chosen the title „Investing in Women for the 21st Century“. After discussing what was to be expected from the 21st century in terms of population growth, communication and global environmental threats and a brief look into the most promising possibilities and mechanisms for empowerment, I focussed on the importance of active participation of women at the international, regional and national levels as well as in international networks such as the Alliance. At the personal level, I found, and I still find, it of utmost importance to overcome „the barriers in our own heads“. Investing means profit expectation. I ended, therefore, with a discussion of the benefit that our societies can expect from the active involvement of women.

Sachiko Okomura (J) and Marie Françoise Mirot (F) had also been invited, and we had the pleasure to meet Manel Abeysekera and all other friends of the Sri Lanka Women's Conference. A roundtrip in a rented car together with Begum Afsar Qizilbash, delegate of Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan that took us to the legendary temple of Khajuraho, was a perfect ending of a wonderful, inspiring visit.

The **Frauenzirkel** celebrated its 15th birthday on 15 February 1994 (my 56th birthday) with a series of lectures. An IAW Executive meeting took place on 16 October at my Vienna home³⁹.

39 Minutes AW. Present: President Alice Marangopoulos, Hon. Pres Olive Bloomer, Vice President Chana Elroy, Board Members: Aiska Hiltunen, Rosy Weiss, European Coordinator Marieluise Weber.

1995, 4WCW: I was among those saying **no to Beijing**, as I was not of the opinion that issues such as equality, development or peace could be discussed in a country without observation of basic human rights. I did not expect that women NGOs could speak out and say what they had to say in this country. Nor did I believe that the Forum, approx. 50 km away from the Conference, could influence government negotiations. I knew that my decision to stay home would deprive me of a very special experience, but I could not help it. I simply did not consider China an appropriate venue.

Some personal reflections at the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:

Beijing+5: In 2000, the fifth anniversary of the 4th and last World Conference on Women, 4WCW, Beijing 1995, prepared by the 44th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), was commemorated as twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly (A/S-23/13). This special session came up with

- a short Political Declaration (A/RES/S-23/2) reaffirming governments' commitment to overcome obstacles in the implementation of the Beijing and Nairobi (3WCW) outcomes, to strengthen and safeguard an enabling environment, full participation and empowerment of women, and to pledge to undertake further action through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Governments agreed to a regular assessment of further implementation, as appropriate, in ten years, and pledged to ensure the realization of societies in which both women and men work together towards a world where every individual can enjoy equality, development and peace in the 21st century,
- a resolution (A/RES/ S-23/3) in which the GA adopts further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

This was the last special session of UNGA with respect to the Beijing process. Already in 2005, at Beijing+10 world's women had to accept that further assessments will take place at the level of a functional UN Commission (CSW).

Not surprisingly *"Beijing Betrayed"* has been the title chosen for a worldwide report by Women's Environment & Development Organisation (WEDO) stating that governments have failed to turn the Platform into Action. *"Governments worldwide have adopted a piecemeal and incremental approach to implementation that cannot achieve the economic, social and political transformation underlying the promises and visions of Beijing"* writes June Zeitlin WEDO's Director in her introduction. In the same direction argued the New York NGO Committee on the Status of Women with the title *"Ten Years After Beijing: Still more promises than progress" and Equality Now*

with “Words and Deeds, holding governments accountable in the Beijing+10 Review Process”.

The 49th session of CSW, Beijing+10: Only with great difficulty and in the very last minute could the Commission come up with a Declaration, even shorter than GA’s Political Declaration five years previously, just reaffirming, welcoming progress, emphasizing the importance of Beijing and the special GA for achieving agreed development goals, recognizing the mutual reinforcement with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with almost identical wording. See the Commission’s report E/CN.6/2005/11, ECOSOC Official Records E/2005/27.

The report of the SG (E/CS.6/2005/2) on the implementation of the Beijing and 23 special session documents is also worth reading not only for its overview of progress in the Beijing Critical Areas of Concern but because of its work on “other issues”, not covered so far: trafficking in women and girls, HIV/AIDS, indigenous women, information and communication technologies, the Millenium Development Goals, and men and boys.

Indeed, there was very little progress, and the climate of negotiations worsened. However, there was still access to the UN building for accredited NGOs including the possibility of listening to deliberations and personally lobby government delegates in the corridors.

Five years later – Beijing+15 – and against the background of the renovation of the UN headquarter due to asbestos, smooth accreditation and access to delegates changed considerably. One week before leaving Vienna for New York, flight tickets and hotel reservation settled, I read with amazement in a communication by the Division that “not all NGO representatives” will be given access to the deliberations. Two days before departure, I read with growing anger that – so sorry – there will be no translations for NGOs of the official documents. Week one of the session was pure chaos, to the extent that Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women tried to calm the frustrations of NGOs in a hitherto unprecedented letter.

Has there been tangible results? From my report: *“Due to the failure to strongly reaffirm Beijing and to commit to renewed and concrete actions and resources to implement Beijing, the Declaration 2010 must be considered a backward step. It clearly overstates the progress made and underestimates the degree and types of challenges that remain for women in their multiple identities, including the persistence of violence against them.”*

The Declaration (E/CN.6/2010/L.1) reaffirmed, welcomed, emphasized, recognized and called upon – as already well known.

Yet, women expected more from the governments of the world. What should be done by the women's movement in this situation – what would later be called the “shrinking space”? Is there still a chance for the implementation of the far-reaching Beijing commitments? These were the issues in a last-minute get-together of NGO representatives, organized by the Alliance under the title “CSW54 – the end of an era? Do we have a future with the UN?”. In an over-crowded room (frustration level!) at the Church Centre these questions and much more were passionately discussed, and organizational requests formulated and sent to the UN Division on the Advancement of Women (DAW), the New York NGO Committee on the Status of Women and CONGO, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations.

The fifth session of the **UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, Vienna, May 21 to 31, 1996, was attended by President Alice Marangopoulos and Alison Brown, concentrating on item 3 of the agenda on the report and practical measures, strategies and activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice on the elimination of violence against women in all its forms. Alison's detailed report in English and Alice's report in French⁴⁰ clearly show to what extent the **shrinking space** in international negotiations has gradually cut former opportunities for interaction with government delegates – the important lobbying, backbone of the work of international NGOs like the Alliance. *“I asked if the denial of nourishment and education to girls, which I consider structural violence, were included in the basic definition ... I reiterated the points the IAW had made at a Prepcom for the Congress on educating the judiciary ...”*

Another of Alison's eloquent reports⁴¹ 1996 reflects her participation in the **ILO** Conference (June 4 to 20 1996, Geneva), resulting in a **Home Work Convention**. *Art 1.: “Definition: For the purpose of this Convention (a) the term work” means work carried out by a person, to be referred to as homemaker, (i) in his or her home or in other premises of his or her choice, other than the workplace of the employer; (ii) for remuneration; (iii) which results in a product or service as specified by the employer, irrespective of who provides the equipment, materials or other inputs used, unless this person has the degree of autonomy and of economic independence necessary to be considered an independent worker under national law, regulations or court decisions. Art 4:” The national policy on homework shall promote, as far as possible, equality of treatment between home workers and other wage earners, taking into account the*

40 IWN 3/1996

41 IWN 4/1996

special characteristics of home work and, where appropriate, conditions applicable to the same or a similar type of work carried out in an enterprise”.

“The joy was great” Alison continues “when the Home Work Convention passed in the Plenary despite the campaign for abstentions by Employers. (Quorum: 248, Yes: 246, No: 14, Abstain: 152, Majority 174). The vote on the Recommendation was less of a worry – indeed, even some Employers broke ranks and voted with their governments for it. (Quorum: 248, For: 303, Against: 4, Abstentions: 111, Majority 205)”.

Bitter Lemons (of Cyprus)

From Lawrence Durrell

In an island of bitter lemons
Where the moon’s cool fevers burn
From the dark globes of the fruit.
And the dry grass underfoot
Tortures memory and revises
Habits half a lifetime dead.
Better leave the rest unsaid,
Beauty, darkness, vehemence
Let the old sea-nurses keep
Their memorials of sleep
And the Greek sea’s curly head
Keep its calms like tears unshed
Keep its calms like tears unshed.

Board meeting, June 15 to 17, 1996, Cyprus⁴².

In a brainstorming session, Board members identified some of the most pressing problems to be formulated by the next Congress in Calcutta and inscribed into

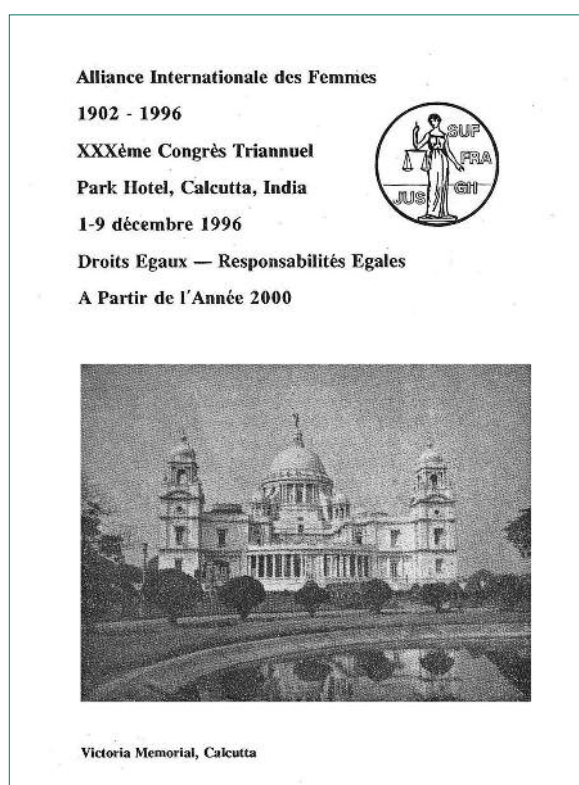


the Action Programme of the coming triennium. The issues identified were poverty, trafficking, violence against women migrant workers and refugees, sharing of family responsibilities, healthy lifestyles, and monitoring of the Beijing commitments.

It was the last meeting with Brigitte Pross. Here is Brigitte once again in full swing, apparently among the youngest in our group.

42 Minutes AW

December 1 to 8, 1996, XXXth IAW Congress, Calcutta⁴³, at the invitation of the Country Women's Association of India, the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association and All Indian Women's Conference. The theme: „Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities Beyond the Year 2000“, with a special focus on the tragedy of the girl child and the need to protect her rights and freedoms⁴⁴. In seven plenary sessions participants discussed “burning issues”, adopted recommendations, and the Action Programme for 1997–1999. Patricia Giles was elected new President of the Alliance and a new IAW commission



was established: the Commission on Environment and Habitat. Convenor, Prisca Molotsi, Zambia⁴⁵.

The programme of events from the magnificent inauguration at the Darbar Hall of the Victoria Memorial to cultural shows with Monipuri and Odissi Dance, Bratachari Dancing, a dinner hosted by Aroti Dutt, organiser of the Congress and a dinner hosted

by the Maharaja and the Maharani of Tripura was a wonderful dream ending with a boat trip on the river Ganges. Unforgettable days in the “City of Joy”.

The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association under the leadership of Aroti Dutt presented us with an excellent and comprehensive Congress report.

Since the presidency of Irène de Lipkowsky and thanks to a donation from the French government, IAW has always had simultaneous interpretation at all its debates.

⁴³ Minutes pre-and post-congress Board meetings, notes of informal Board meeting, list of participants AW

⁴⁴ See report Lyda Verstegen IWN 1/1997

⁴⁵ See report Pat Richardson inn IWN 2/1997 and again Lyda Verstegen

A **seminar on the contribution made by the French language** to meetings of International NGOs was held in Paris from May 20 to 21, **1997**, organized jointly by the French Foreign Ministry, its liaison mission to NGOs associated with the Délégation Générale à la Langue Française and the Union of International Organisations based

in France (UOIF). As IAW Vice-President, I traveled to Paris to address the meeting in French during the first round-table dealing with the use of the French language in scientific and technical meetings⁴⁶.

As Marie-Françoise Mirot reports in IWN 3/1997: *“Taking the environment as her subject, she put the case for the subtle shades of meaning that the French language can bring to the notion of sustainable development.”*⁴⁷ In the light of the success of simultaneous translation at the 30th IAW Congress in Calcutta, I then proceeded to discuss the place of the French language in the International Alliance of Women against the background of Anglophone dominance. It is also interesting to note that the number of francophones on the IAW Board elected in Calcutta has gone from one to five and that the number of francophone member organizations has risen to seven out of the sixty-plus IAW member organisations world-wide.



CILAF: Marie-Françoise Mirot and Marcelle Devaud

This is perhaps the best place to discuss the French part of IAW and in consequence the French pages of our International Women’s News. As Odette Gonçet, at the time our representative to UNESCO writes in IWN 1/1999: *“the situation is also the long-standing habit of using an “international English” that was not exactly suited to express the shades of concepts inherited from the Latin for the delegates with a Mediterranean cultural background if they were to apprehend the law and the socio-economical, cultural and political issues that a great international association is bound to deal with”*. Maybe the opinion that English is not suited to express the shades of Latin concepts should be further discussed by English native speakers and not foreigners. However, the fact is that even with poor English proficiency, as in my case, you manage to trick yourself through the most difficult negotiations. Why this is so, I do not know (maybe this has to do with the idiomatic construction of the

46 Séminaire sur les enjeux de la présence du Français dans les rencontres internationales d’O.I.N.G.. Intervention Rosy Weiss « L’Alliance Internationale des Femmes – une O.I.N.G. féminine/féministe et son programme d’action à l’exemple de l’environnement », AW

47 IWN 3/1997

English language). But: Thank you, Anglo-Saxons, for your patience and comprehension. You did well, as this very much contributed to the international success of your language.

With a language such as French this would never have been possible. There are only two possibilities: you know it, or you don't. Living in a German context and decades away from my fluency during my studies in Paris and Vienna as well as later as a professional interpreter and translator, I am very well aware of my deficiencies today. But, whenever my French colleagues tell me that I am doing well when I send them an article for corrections, I feel very, very honoured. Yet, this doesn't make me a French editor.

The wonderful Centenary Edition offers an excellent history of our IWNNews in "JUS SUFFRAGII – The Journal", covering the period from 1906 to 2004, including the names of the English and French editors. Hilary Paddon started to work on the French section in 1981. After her resignation I took our board meeting in Burkina Faso in 2005 as an opportunity to try to recruit Cécile Ouédraogo, writer and poet, as French editor. Unfortunately, this endeavour failed due to technical problems. Mathilde Duval kindly produced French pages between 2007 and 2012. In addition, my special thanks go to Danielle Lévy, who always was ready to step in with translations or corrections when no one else was available.

The Board Meeting October 24–26, 1997, took place at the Union des Aveugles de Guerre, Paris, organized jointly by IAW member organisations CILAF (Comité International de Liaison des Associations Féminines) and AFEM (Associations des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale)⁴⁸. On the social programme: A lunch at UNESCO and a visit of the premises, a dinner at the Château du Val, St. Germain-en-Laye, the country seat of the Legion d'Honneur (of which Marcelle Devaud and Marie-Françoise Mirot both were members because of their public engagement), and a celebratory party evening at the Senate concluded the meeting.

A national seminar "Beijing+2" took place at the Centre for international conferences. This interesting exchange with members of the French delegations to Beijing and Huairou was much appreciated because it was an opportunity for national stocktaking and the sharing of that information for all of the IAW membership present in Paris.

An invitation to join the French colleagues in visiting Normandy along the Channel coast, and Brittany on the Atlantic coast, Le Mans, the Solesmes Abbey and the Chartres Cathedral concluded an extraordinary and well-organized stay.

48 Agenda AW



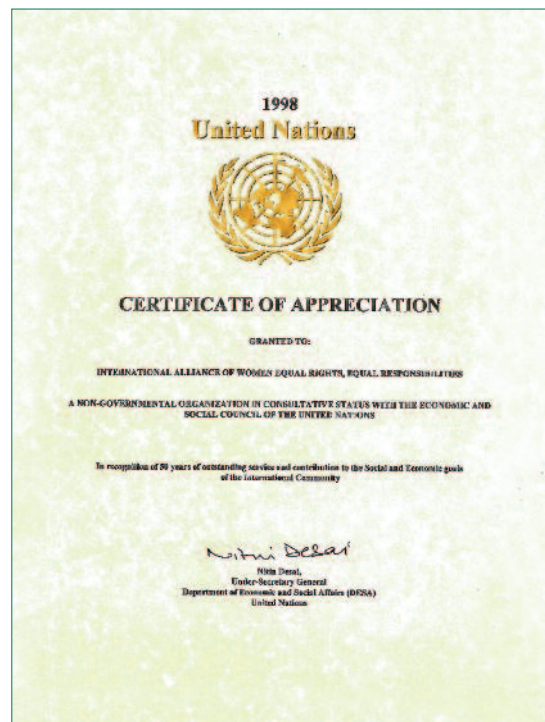
D-Day. Here I was for the first time at the historic battleground of 4 June 1944. One need not to have seen relevant American films to immediately understand the conditions under which these soldiers had to confront the German army positioned high up on top of the cliffs. Although my poor father had to serve in Russia, I wandered around the American cemetery in complete loneliness and deep grief until I found myself in the Garden of the Missing “who gave their lives in the service of their coun-
try”.

Much more! They gave their lives in the service of humanity and democracy and became the founders of an incredible period of peace and prosperity in Europe!

1998: IAW is awarded the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Under-Secretary General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN in recognition of 50 years of outstanding service and contribution to the Social and Economic goals of the International Community in our role as an NGO with consultative status with ECOSOC.

Unfortunately, I could not attend the **International Committee Meeting, Copenhagen – Malmö, August 21–27, 1998, on Fundamentalism and Women’s Rights**, organized jointly by the Danish Women’s Society and Frederika Bremer Förbundet⁴⁹. Dear Monika Plail attended,

and she reported back to the Frauenzirkel that it was an inspiring meeting. Given the current rise in fundamentalism all over the world, organising such a meeting in 1998 was well ahead of time and its outcome should reappear on our agenda⁵⁰.



49 AW: Patricia Giles “Fundamentalism”; Kunti Paul “Fundamentalism & Women’s Rights”; Mona Korashi “Fundamentalism in Islam & Women’s Issues.” Minutes of the Board meeting AW

50 See reports Inge Garstedt, Lene Pind in IWN 2/1998; see also IWN 4/1998

The year 1999 had an enjoyable start. Coming from The Hague where I attended the Hague Forum on the Five-Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action on behalf of my government's first EU Presidency I had the time to visit **Marijke and Paul Peters** and to assist in their **Golden Wedding** Ceremony with their large family and the community of Laren. Many members of this musical family played in the Gouden Huwelijksconcert at the Rosa Spier Huis. What a lovely occasion and memory.

When I went back to **New York to attend the UN Commission for Social Development and the UN Commission for Population and Development, ICPD+5** (the first review of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994), on behalf of my government, Kay kindly invited me to her summer house in **Cutchogue**.

What a trip by bus from Manhattan to the North Fork of Long Island! Kay's and Jim's hospitality, however, made me feel welcome immediately and I enjoyed a peaceful walk through the woods down to the sea.

Years later I found the following in The New York Times: *"No sailor, for sure, but he had relativity down cold. Word had already spread across this sleepy bay side hamlet on the North Fork of Long Island that the strange, shaggy genius from Princeton fancied himself a sailor and had rented a summer cottage overlooking Cutchogue Harbour. The name of his clunky 15-foot sailboat was Tinef, Yiddish for "worthless" or "junk", and according to tales across the Little Peconic Bay, it could have equally described Einstein's skippering skills".* And I remembered that Kay had told me that Albert Einstein loved to stay in this peaceful little town.



Kay and Rosy



Jim Potts – Kay Fraleigh-Potts

The **XXXIst Congress was held in New York from August 30 to September 3, 1999**, at the invitation of the Lucy Stone League. The theme of the congress **"Challenges and choices: Priorities for the Twenty-First Century"** was reflected in the pre-

congress seminar on **Priorities for the Twenty-First Century**, which concentrated on the Action Programme. As Helen Self wrote in IWN Vol 94 1999 *“some key themes were highlighted at this seminar, in particular the importance of modern communication technology”*. Those delegates lucky enough to be present enjoyed a wonder-



Sigrid Stadler, Monika Plail

ful picnic in the Fraleigh-Potts garden, where the two Jims (Jimmy the brother and Jim the husband) were in constant attendance. *“The sun shone on us throughout the week and the vibrant life of the Big Apple filled us with excitement and energy”*. Yet, we were all greatly saddened to hear of the death of Rena Lampsas, a dedicated and respected Greek feminist, who represented the Alliance for a number of years at the European Women’s Lobby.

An important contribution to Congress was presented by Priscilla Todd (Aus) under the title *“The vision of IAW on the spirit with which it approaches Beijing+5”*. Her analysis: *“Since 1995 two phenomena have taken place: a) the growth of information technology, which makes globalisation possible and b) an increasing awareness of cultural, religious and tribal traditions related to the position of women”*. Her vision: *“Progress on equality, development and peace depends on a power balance to be struck between women and men, between political and economic powers and NGOs. Women’s NGO’s act as the conscience for human development. They will protect humanity from the harmful effects of some traditional practices and of globalisation”*.



Australia and Austria as close as possible
Pat Goble, Rosy Weiss, Pat Richardson

For the first time in New York, I did not stay at my relatives home on the Upper West Side, 77th Broadway. The Seafarers and International House near Union Square was indeed a new and exciting experience for me, Monika, Sigrid, and Alison.

After Congress Sigrid went to see a friend at Martha’s Vineyard (where I was due to join her in a few days) whereas Monika and I went to Washington. We took our time at the Korean and

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and visited the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Textile Museum, the National Gallery of Art and the National Museum of Natural History, and the Freer and Sackler Galleries.

Pretty exhausted we came back to New York, from where Monika went back to Austria, and I headed towards **Martha's Vineyard**.

The message was clear: You take the boat at 2 o'clock and we meet you at the port. Luckily, I managed to get an earlier boat and was not at all irritated that my friends were not there. I waited patiently two, three hours – no friends.

Finally, I got nervous and went to see the Community Services who put me in contact with the police. But the police could not help as I had neither the name of Sigrid's friend, nor her address. By chance I got a room in the otherwise fully booked island. Without



Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony

my knowing it, at the same time my people in Vienna and New York were informed by Sigrid that I was missing. Of course, they were at a loss to know what to do, but they had enough imagination to see my body already floating down the Hudson. The next day I had a sunny morning stroll through Vineyard Haven, saw the Association Hall from 1844, the "Tabernacle" from 1879 and the historic houses built by ship captains in the mid-1800s. When I came back to the port in order to check departure times for my travel back to New York, I run into Sigrid. The reason why I was not met at the port was that I had to take **exactly** the boat indicated to me as this was going to the other port, Edgartown, where my friends waited for me. All's



well that ends well and we enjoyed some wonderful days together, exploring Tisbury, Menemsha, the Animal Cliffs and the Field Gallery, eating lobster nearby. And of course, New York and Vienna calmed down!

This is perhaps the best place to thank my **New York friends, relatives, members of my husband's extended family**, from the bottom of my heart

for their never fading kindness, gracious hospitality and deep friendship. (Their families had to flee from Vienna in historic times and succeeded in touching base in New York after some difficult years in Shanghai). What a pleasure and privilege for which I can't thank you enough. Every single stay – and they were numerous –

filled with memories of wonderful conversations and memorable events, from concerts in Carnegie Hall and opera performances at the Met, visits to museums, to excursions to Lake Peekskill and Christo's gates exhibition in Central Park – to name only a few!

Following ECOSOC Resolution 1997/47 of 22 July 1997 endorsed by GA Resolution 52/15 of November 20, 1997 the year **2000** was proclaimed as **International Year of the Culture of Peace**. UNESCO as the lead agency initiated its project entitled "Towards a culture of peace". GA Resolution 53/25 proclaimed the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001–2010). *8 areas span the full range of actions needed for transition to a culture of peace and non-violence: A culture of peace through education, sustainable economic and social development, respect for all human rights, equality between women and men, democratic participation, understanding, tolerance and solidarity, participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge, international peace and security.*

Attendance on behalf of my government at the UN Social Commission, New York, February 8 to 17, 2000, was my last journey abroad with Monika Plail.



CSocD was to "review the outcome of the Social Summit 1995, Copenhagen". We stayed in the historic Hotel Bedford, like Klaus Mann in 1939, and watched the demonstrations against the new coalition government of Wolfgang Schüssel (Austrian People's Party) and Jörg Haider (Austrian Freedom Party) in front of the Austrian Consulate.

From October 29 to November 2, 2000 **the IAW Board met in Tel Aviv, Israel**, invited by WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organisation.

Again, Helen Self kindly took on the task to report from our stay in Israel (see IWN Vol 95 No 4/2000). Political troubles in the country had caused considerable anxiety and uncertainty during the preparatory phase and some people had cancelled their trip. Fortunately, the arrival of Padmini Casinader meant that the quorum was reached, and the Board was ready to take decisions. *"We were welcomed with great courtesy by our hosts and undeserved praise for our bravery" Helen writes. "Even the customs officers at the airport had wondered what sort of women's meeting could possibly be so important that it carried on when everyone else had cancelled their engagements!"*



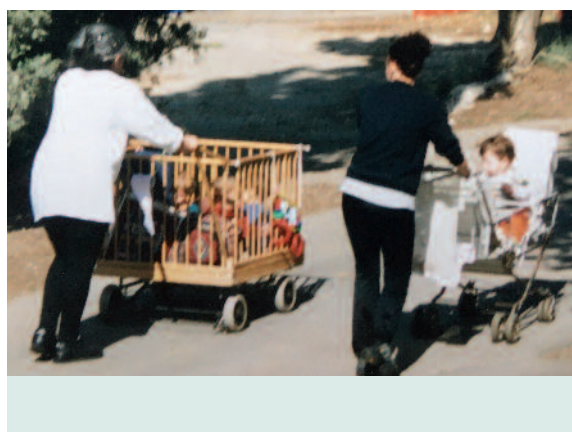
IAW Board meeting, 2000, Tel Aviv Jessica Kehl-Lauff, Sachiko Okumura, NN, Aroti Dutt, NN, Chana Elroy, Olive Bloomer, Kay Fraleigh, Pat Giles, Helena Glaser, Rakesh Dhawan, Meena Pimpalapura, Anje Wiersinga, Ida Kurth, Gudrun Haupter, Kunti Paul, Marijke Peters, NN.

It is all too natural that our hosts expressed their hope that IAW, while in the country, would take a political stance in favour of Israeli policy towards Palestine. I am proud to say that the Board came up with a **balanced message** to the women of the region:

“The IAW as an international women’s organisation working for equality between women and men since 1904 wishes to express the solidarity of its members with the women of the region in these difficult times.

We are deeply concerned with the present situation of turmoil and violence and urge the leaders of the region to immediately stop the fighting and continue their efforts to establish a lasting peace for the benefit of their peoples. Serious efforts to return to the peace negotiations are required as a condition for building an environment that is conducive to mutual respect and understanding.⁵¹”

WIZO’s Seminar addressed the universal problems of women’s rights, violence against women and trafficking, and the crucial importance of establishing themselves in politics. Two days of touring gave us an insight into WIZO’s activities in these areas. We visited a boarding school in Haifa, the multi-purpose day care centre at Shikun Shapira, a centre for the prevention of domestic violence at Ramat Gan and Beith Heuss in Herzlia, and a centre for the “Enrichment of Family Life”.



On our way to Jerusalem, we had the opportunity to visit a Kibbutz and get some impressions from this way of cooperative living and working.

51 Original document AW



Yad Vashem

In Jerusalem we just had time for a visit to the Hadassah Medical Centre and its synagogue with the magnificent Chagall Windows, to the Shrine of the Book before entering the Children's Memorial in Yad Vashem.⁵² Here ends my memory of the day, for understandable reason.

Kay Fraleigh writes in IWN 4/2000 under the title "The Alliance at the United Nations in New York": *"At this moment as we meet in Tel Aviv, it is crucial that we refer back to our Declaration of Principles*

which states that the Alliance believes "that the maximum participation of women in political life is a vital prerequisite of democracy for the realisation of gender equality in the political field and for the establishment of peace and social justice".

Adoption of Resolution 1325 (2000) by the Security Council, on October 31, 2000.

This goes to the heart of IAW's work. For women everywhere the issues of peace and social justice are paramount. So, we begin our report with the Special Meeting of the Security Council held a few days ago on 24 October, when the Secretary-General pointed out that it was essential that more women be included in the peace-keeping efforts of the UN. This must happen at every level, including the highest levels of decision-making. To be successful, this process must also be duplicated by UN member states. – The birth of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) with the IAW on board right from the beginning!

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women comes into force on December 22, 2000.

By ratifying the Optional Protocol, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention – to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction. The Protocol contains two procedures: A communications procedure allows individual women, or groups of women, to submit claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention to the Committee,

⁵² Yad Vashem: This unique memorial, hollowed out from an underground cavern, is a tribute to the approximately 1.5 million Jewish children who were murdered during the Holocaust. Memorial candles, a customary Jewish tradition to remember the dead, are reflected infinitely in a dark and somber space, creating the impression of millions of stars shining in the firmament. The names of murdered children, their ages and countries of origin can be heard in the background.

*provided domestic remedies have been exhausted. The Protocol also creates an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights.*⁵³

The **International Meeting 2001** was held at the **Vienna International Centre** from **November 6 to 9** and was my personal baby, helped by my other babies – my daughters.



I am also still grateful for the help I had received from Sigrid Stadler and her Institute for Study in Salzburg and from the members of the Frauenzirkel Austria. I would certainly not have been able to organize the meeting without their most effective and voluntary cooperation.



The organising committee: Sofia and Marion Weiss (seated) Verena Weiss and Gaby Bertl (standing)

“Never more timely⁵⁴” was the title given by our editor, Jan March, to the report of the **Seminar on Women in the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence**, held in conjunction with the Meeting of the International Committee. My intention was to showcase the active role of women in the search for peace and in their fight against violence. “*Since the beginning of history*”, I said in my introduction⁵⁵, “*women have always become direct and deliberate victims of violent conflicts, of sexual assault and rape. Although one can never talk too much about this victimization, the intention of this seminar is to show that women are not just victims. They are taking the initiative to reach across the conflict divide and seek peace. They work together to raise awareness, build trust and change attitudes in favour of peace, very often under life threatening conditions. But they do it.*” Following the seminar, the Alliance agreed to draft a statement in support of the women of Afghanistan.⁵⁵

Another meeting “**The UN and NGOs in Vienna**” was devoted to presentations from UN bodies based in Vienna, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Various Vienna based NGO networks in which



Time out at the Bockkeller

⁵³ <https://www.un.org/daw/cedaw>

⁵⁴ IWV 4/2001

⁵⁵ AW



Dr. Heinz Fischer at our reception

Alliance representatives are active (on women, crime prevention and criminal justice, aging, the family) took part and presented their commitments, as did the representative of CONGO.

During the International Meeting, our delegates attended two receptions, one organized by the Women's Office of Vienna at the Vienna City Hall and another at the Austrian Parliament, where IAW was received by Heinz Fischer, Austrian President from 2004 to 2016, at the time of our meeting President of Parliament and former Minister of Science, and Barbara Prammer, a former Minister of Women's Affairs, who succeeded Mr. Fischer as first President of the Austrian Parliament. (She died 2012 of cancer, mourned by Austrian women).

The XXXIInd Triennial Congress of the Alliance "New Frontiers for a New Age" took place from September 14 to 22, 2002 in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Sri Lanka Women's Conference.

22 countries were represented, 6 new societies admitted as members of the Alliance and a new Board was elected.

Among several receptions and official dinners in Colombo, participants were honoured by a reception given by her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Ms Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga⁵⁶.



Alison Brown, Sigrid Stadler, Mary Noonan, Lene Pind, NN, Madge MacQuaid, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Siri Haugeland, NN, NN, NN, NN, Gudrun Haupter, Anje Wiersinga

⁵⁶ See report Hilary Paddon, IWN 3/2002

As I was one of last persons to enter the reception hall, I did not hear the security announcement that no pictures other than the official ones would be allowed. So, I took my picture in perfect peace, not knowing that this would be the only private picture ever taken of Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, a courageous woman thrown into power fights, losing children, family and one of her eyes in this cruel battle for power and control.

A most enjoyable excursion to Kandy, the Elephant Orphanage and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha concluded a memorable week.

The national **Seminar on mechanisms for a shared global leadership for a new millennium** was organized by the Sri Lanka Women's Conference (SLWC) in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Colombo. My intervention (see IWN Vol 97 No 3/2002, page 27)⁵⁷ discussed the current spheres in which women do not share leadership. Examining some of the striking failures and unmet chances of the women's movement and of international NGOs such as IAW, I focused on women's commitment to bring about change and the difficulties encountered. *The social, political and ideological heterogeneity of women's groups, the tensions between the more feminist and the more feminine streams, and divisions over strategies prevented the women's movement from forging powerful alliances that might have been able to bring about real change. Another concern is the fact that given the limited success in feminising political power, many women have opted to enter political parties, parliaments and public administration thus stripping their organisations from much needed competences. This, however, has not become a success story either. The "NGOisation" is yet another of my concerns. The competition for dwindling funds on the one side and the reliance on the unpaid work of women as the backbone of women's day to day self-help and self-reliance projects on the other, seem to absorb the advocacy and campaigning elements of the movement. What is important in my view is the relationship between an INGO like the Alliance and its grassroots constituents. INGOs and their leadership require close ties to community-based organisations. Such ties cannot be taken for granted; they must be consciously nurtured.*

Efforts to induce change, to translate even modest goals of the movement into concrete policies, capable of making a positive impact on the lives of women, have been patchy and in the realms of public expenditure, almost impossible. This is in part due to the lack of effective pressure from an organised women's movement that can articulate a coherent set of issues and priorities for policy attention and monitor its adoption and implementation – or the failure to do so – by state agencies.

57 Report Vijita Fernando, Sri Lanka Women's Conference, AW

Public leadership and governance still bear an explicit male identity. This masculine construction makes it difficult for women to get to the top without some form of “electoral engineering”. As this electoral engineering is never the quantity of women aligned behind one female candidate, it has to operate on auxiliary devices such as quotas or reserved seats. It is this universality that makes masculinism so powerful and this leaves women in the position of the “other”. If women are willing to play the male game and, in some cases, play it even harder than the male colleagues, their acceptance of these role models unfortunately only legitimises these rules”.

IAW Board Meeting, Dominican Republic, September 28 to 4 October, 2003



Priscilla Todd, Gertrude Wartenberg, NN, NN, Lene Pind, Marieluise Weber, Kay Fraleigh, Pat Giles, NN, Reyna Cohen, NN, Horeya Megahed, NN, Pat Goble, NN, Marijke Peters, Helen Self, Sachkco Okomura, Joanna Manganara, NN, Inga Jónsdóttir, Ida Kurth. Gudrun Haupter, Rosy Weiss, Lyda Verstegen

“Members flew into a very warm Caribbean climate and received an even warmer welcome from Reyna Cohen, President of ADDEM, our host organisation, and her daughters, Michele and Massiel, and their cheerful group of young helpers. This set the tone for a most successful Board meeting”.

This was the beginning of the report published in IWN 3/2003. Although President Pat Giles flew in courageously and tried to attend all official functions from her wheelchair, helped by a sweet grand-daughter, it became quickly clear that her ill health was preventing her from presiding over the whole meeting. Well aware of the challenges of the coming year it became clear I had to take responsibility into my hands. I was very lucky to be able to retire from the Austrian Ministry in the fall

of 2003. Of course, preparations for our Centenary Celebrations, planned to take place in Berlin, and for the Jubilee Congress in Freiburg by invitation of the Deutsche Frauenring were the major items up for discussions. Marijke outlined what later became the wonderful Centenary Publication (put together in cooperation with Helen Self, with contributions from a great number of our members); Lyda and her COCO (constitution committee) outlined the blueprint for a revised constitution and by-laws, to be adopted in Freiburg.

We were privileged to attend the National Congress where we met with the President and women members of Parliament. The Alliance was also welcomed at the charming colonial City Hall, the University of Santo Domingo and the impressive National Palace where we spent our final evening together with the First Lady and the President of the Republic. Just before we left, Reyna told us that assistance was being promised which would allow the first women's shelter to be established.

At a national **Seminar on Domestic Violence, a Menace to a Healthy Society**, I had the chance to outline the Alliance's efforts since 1979 in order to get all aspects of violence against women into the agenda of the United Nations⁵⁸. In doing so I quoted the recommendation of the XXVth IAW Congress held in Monrovia, Liberia, the starting point of IAW's engagement in this cause: *"... concerned at the prevalence in many countries of physical violence against women, which is a violation of human rights and the dignity of the person, requests the Status of Women Commission of the United Nations, in accordance with article 28 of the Declaration of Mexico in 1975, to reconsider the inclusion of rape and physical violence as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commission, believing that there is need for research into the legal aspects of the treatment of victims"*.

This recommendation was the reason why Brigitte Pross had sent me to the Vienna based NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 1982 in order to get the issue on their agenda and in consequence on the agenda of the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (Commission since 1992)⁵⁹.

After a short introduction in Spanish, that dear Lyda helped me to prepare and to correctly spell out, kindly applauded, I focused in English on the efforts by our Vienna representatives, in particular within the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, session 1982 and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, session 1983. At the Seventh UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, August 26 to September 6, 1985, IAW held an ancillary workshop

58 IWN 3/2003, speech in AW

59 IWNNews Centenary Edition, page 82.

on domestic violence. At the end, after long discussions the Congress adopted by consensus and for the first time the topic “violence in the family”, referred to in the concluding documents as “domestic violence”.

The outcome of this workshop was also reflected in Congress Resolution 6, adopted as General Assembly Resolution A/40/36 “non-violence in the home”.



We're celebrating our 100th Birthday!

Preparations for the Centenary started well ahead of time. For instance, in Santo Domingo with a questionnaire prepared by Alison Brown, Bettina Corke and myself with the aim to get the views of our membership on the role of IAW in the 21st century. Given President Patricia Giles' health status, I regarded it as my duty as the nearest living and German speaking Vice-President to get the ball rolling. Fortunately, I had Alison Brown, our able Secretary, at my side. And, very fortunately again, we got special help from Berlin in the person of dear Annemarie Lopez. I am not sure if the two of us would have managed without her efficient and selfless support, including home hospitality.

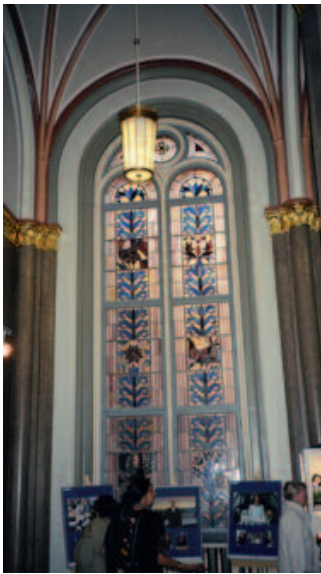
Much of the preparation work was done by internet, in the end, however, we had to go to Berlin to conclude the necessary contracts with the Rote Rathaus, the Hotel,

the Trio, the Café Seidenfaden and the bus company.



Hella Weingart, Bettina Corke, Alison Brown

Very kindly, the Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband helped us with last-minute office facilities in their impressive headquarters near historic Tempelhof airport and a warm welcome (including excellent pastries) by Hella Weingart. Not everything went well. Firstly, attendance in Berlin was very good, yet not excellent. I personally expected many more participants at such a “once in a lifetime” event of our organization. Secondly,



a press conference of the Deutsche Frauenrat (member of the International Council of Women – the international women’s organization IAW broke away from in 1904) at exactly the same time as our scheduled meeting with journalists seemed to have been too much to digest for the few press representatives interested in women’s issues. What a missed opportunity to work together! What would have been the echo to the first joint IAW/ICW press conference after hundred years? And thirdly: The Jubilee Congress itself, which saw much discussion among our delegates, primarily on the draft constitution and which turned out to be much more centred around national issues of our German host and its then president than on the 100 years of IAW.

IWN 3/2004 contains a nice description of the Centenary Celebration on September 3 in the Wappensaal (Hall of Arms) of the Rote Rathaus (Red City Hall) by our editor, Priscilla Todd: *„We arrived by coach at the imposing Berliner Rathaus, climbed the high wide staircase, pausing to admire the beautiful stained-glass windows ...“*

Our Secretary, Alison Brown proved to be an excellent hostess and took us through the proceedings with charm and esprit!

The morning’s programme was interspersed with Le Beau Trio (Prof. Marianne Boettcher, violin, Regina Zimmermann, cello, Ayako Suga-Maack, piano) performing Trio Opus 150 written 1938 by the composer Amy Marcy Beach. (Very shortly after IAW was founded she traveled from her home in the United States to tour in Europe and was well received in Berlin).



Le Beau Trio

The proceedings⁶⁰ began with speeches of welcome and the Roll Call of member societies. Following this, the specially produced Centenary Edition of *Jus Suffragii* was presented by its authors Marijke Peters and Helen Self, and the delegates and participants were invited to view Bettina Corke’s exhibit *“Return to Berlin 1904 – 2004 – a Century of Commitment”*. Keynote (Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling “25 Years of CEDAW: Challenges and Opportunities”) and other speakers (Rosmarie L. Michel, entrepreneur and trustee of Women’s World Banking on “Women invest in Women”;

⁶⁰ See report AW

Ita Malo on “La France dans l’AIF”, Dr. Irina Hundt on the history of women’s right to vote and international cooperation) gave us interesting and thought-provoking addresses and the Panel discussion of longstanding IAW dignitaries and younger members on “The IAW: its Past and Future” as well as a Champagne reception in the Wappensaal concluded a happy and memorable morning. (The Buffet was catered by “Café Seidenfaden”, a social project of women in Berlin). My personal pleasure was the announcement of the birth of my third grand-daughter, Clara, the same day.



This was a simple ceremony with no flags or pomp, but we all felt very strongly the historical significance of being in Berlin 100 years after our foremothers officially formed the Alliance in 1904.

The Ceremony was framed by an International Meeting and a pre-Congress Board meeting held in the eastern outskirts of Berlin, in the beautiful woods near the Müggelsee.



The Kongress Hotel Berlin-Rahnsdorf, run by effective women managers, proved to be an excellent venue for our purpose. The large conference room was also the venue for a delightful buffet dinner which turned into a really fun night with lots of singing and dancing.



A delightful picture in IWN 3/2004 shows Agnes Reardon (at the age of 92) dancing with Pat Goble.

Our visit to Berlin would not have been complete without visiting the place where our organisation was born, the **Hotel Prinz Albert**. Old photographs show the hotel as an impressive neo-renaissance building, constructed 1887/1888.



(Bildnachweis: Landesarchiv Berlin)

Hotel Prinz Albert

Unfortunately, before it was destroyed during WWII, it had become the headquarters of the SS in 1934.

Today the whole area is an exhibition space called *Topography of Terror* in remembrance of the NS regime and is worth visiting.

Other aspects of Berlin's history were those parts of the Wall that we saw from our bus or from the tram while traveling from the Müggelsee (located in East Berlin) to Berlin city.



Unfortunately, President Patricia Giles had a bad fall and was unable to travel from Australia. In her special message Pat quoted those who in historic time expressed doubts on the viability of the newly formed Alliance: *"Its voice was too loud, its hair was too red, it was premature and was unlikely to survive"*. *"Our centenary is a cause for rejoicing"* ... *"And despite the nay-sayers of a hundred years ago, that red-headed baby has grown and matured, it seems, indeed, to be ageless. It has used its loud voice to excellent effect, will continue to do so and is thriving very nicely"*.



Another bad fall occurred right after the Ceremony. When climbing into the bus to go back to Rahnsdorf, Olive Bloomer, Hon. President, fell and had to be taken to hospital, where she unfortunately

had to remain until the end of our sojourn in Germany. Dear Kay Fraleigh took care and stayed with her in Berlin until her return to Malta became possible.

After the Celebration days participants took the train to cross a considerable part of Germany to finally arrive in Freiburg, where our **Jubilee Congress** was held from September 14 to 19, 2004 in the Konzerthaus (Concert House) upon invitation of the Deutsche Frauenring (DFR). Participants were honoured by the presence of Federal Secretary of Family and Women Affairs, Renate Schmidt. The reception of the City of Freiburg took place in the foyer of the Old City Hall.



(Bildnachweis: Landesarchiv Berlin)

Hotel Prinz Albert



Topography of Terror

The new draft Constitution prepared by Lyda Versteegen and her Committee was approved after lengthy and serious debate and the Action Programme was updated. The Seminar on **“Participation in Politics, Economy and Society”** was followed by a round table discussion on **“Gender Responsibility in Politics, Economy and Society”**. Important

resolutions were adopted. 1. from the IAW Commission on All Forms of Violence Against Women and Trafficking: *“Many migrant women are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. IAW urges governments to recognise the contribution made by female migrants to the gross domestic product of their host country and to ensure that they can exercise their full civil rights”*. 2. from AIWC: *“IAW urges governments to assume responsibility for the delivery of basic social services and to provide education, health and sanitation; support NGOs in their efforts to carry on their programmes for gender sensitisation of civil servants, the judiciary and law enforcement officials; support NGOs in raising awareness about the importance of the girl child; implement the Millenium Development Goals forthwith; be accountable for their actions in monitoring pollution and the degradation of the environment; provide facilities in developing and least developed countries for teaching new skills – and upgrading existing ones – to women who have lost their traditional livelihood because of globalization; promote and develop programmes to sensitize communities regarding the mental and physical health of adolescents”*. 3. from the Convenor of the IAW Environment and Globalisation Commission: *IAW urges all its members to lobby their governments to support IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms) in its efforts to ban the proliferation of small arms and further recommends to lobby all governments to endorse the work of IANSA”*.



Jubilee Congress Podium



IAW participants at the stairs of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg

A Seminar organised by the DFR raised issues on *Participation in Politics, Economy and Society*.

I was very honoured to be elected 12th president of the Alliance.

The Congress ended with a festive Jubilee Dinner at the Konzerthaus – our spacious venue – with many speeches, good food and wine and the German French High School Jazz Band.

An excursion to the Black Forest and an informative day at the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg concluded a memorable week.

Presidency

Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing+10, New York, February 28 to March 11, 2005⁶¹.

The Commission wasted one entire week to merely holding to the principles agreed in Beijing. (The US amendment – only withdrawn at the last minute – was reaffirming the Beijing and Beijing+5 outcomes only if they would not create new international human rights. The issue behind: the right to abortion). The final outcome of this debate can be read in E/CN.6/2005/L.1. It is a political declaration of one page, merely reaffirming Beijing, not more, but at least, not less.

The strong IAW presence⁶² influenced the debates on “**Gender Mainstreaming: Is it a Risk?**”; the joint IAW/UNIFEM Japan workshop on “**Migrant Women Workers and their Human Rights**”⁶³; the joint debate on “**Violence against Women: War Crimes & The International Criminal Court**” with the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the International Council of Women, the World Veterans Federation and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers; the interactive workshop on “**Education: are we moving from de jure to de facto?**” together with the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers.

An unexpected, yet wonderful invitation came to me from **India** in **May 2005** as the newly elected President of IAW. It was extended to me by the All India Women’s Conference, President Manorama Bawa and her colleagues Kunti Paul, Aparna Basu, Jaya Kothai Pillai, Meena Pimpalpure, Lalita Balakrishnan and many, many others. The unique experience of this stay for me was that it took place in a completely Indian setting. **The seminar on women in political decision-making**, to which I contributed IAW’s position and experience, took place at the AIWC’s headquarters at the heart of busy New Delhi⁶⁴.



UNSG Kofi Annan visiting the CSW

⁶¹ Report Rosy Weiss, IWV Vol 100 No1/2005

⁶² IWV 1/2005

⁶³ AW

⁶⁴ IWV 2/2005

Amendments to the Constitution of India have provided for “not less than 1/3rd representation of seats for women in the local bodies of Panchayats (village councils) and municipalities. The request of the women’s movement of India for a 33% reservation of seats for women at the national level were met with strong opposition. At the time of my visit, that bill was still pending.



Kunti Paul (in blue sari)
surrounded by her colleagues

After the meeting Manorama took me to a kindergarten where I had the joy of taking part in a celebration of Mother’s Day.

To my great delight I was invited to join in a regular visit of AIWC officials to several local chapters in Northern India.

First, we took the train from Delhi to Haridwar and – much to our surprise, Kunti and her group came to the train station at Saharanpur to greet us.

In Haridwar we were already expected by the women of the local chapter and their display of self-made products under AIWC’s project of income generating activities. As we came near the Ganges, I was given the opportunity to assist at a Pudja and was particularly blessed before we returned to the nearby Ashram where we slept overnight. By car – thanks to Rakesh Dhawan – we continued our voyage up the foothills of the Himalaya to Rishikesh and Mussourie (a famous mountain resort) and saw the Nanga Parbat as a white phantom in the distance! This extraordinary journey ended at Dehra Dun with an invitation for tea in Rakesh’s beautiful home before we took the train back to Delhi. (See also my report in IWN 2/2005).

The **2nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**, Vienna, October 10 to 21, 2005, was attended by Alison Brown, at that time both IAW Secretary General and main representative to the UN Vienna⁶⁵. The Convention, signed in Palermo in 2000, operates through important Protocols, of which the **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children** is of particular interest to IAW. Other Protocols deal with the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air as well as on Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.



The Board in Ouagadougou

From October 28 to November 3, 2005 a historic **Board meeting** took place in **Burkina Faso** under the title “**Politics – Power – Participation in Solidarity with the African Women**”.

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SOLIDARITÉ*par Cécile Ouédraogo*

A vous, femmes nanties
 Pour que vous ayez à cœur
 L'aide, le secours, le partage
 Avec vos sœurs.

A vous, femmes leaders
 Pour que vous ayez à cœur
 De trouver et d'appliquer
 Des initiatives efficaces
 Rapides mais souples
 Pour la promotion de la femme

Toutes ensemble, femmes du monde entier
 Unies dans la solidarité
 Travaillons pour voir venir
 Pour nous et pour nos enfants
 Un monde d'égalité, de liberté et de paix.



For the first time in its 101-year history the Alliance held an official meeting in French speaking West Africa. The most welcome invitation came from Clémentine Ouédraogo, able leader of Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité. Not only did she invite IAW's Board, but also women leaders from neighbouring French speaking countries with the intention to prepare for the founding of a new women's network in West Africa. Her initiative was supported by the Regional Offices of UNICEF in Togo and Senegal, and the Francophonie.

The national seminar was placed under the topic "**Women, Equality and Peace for a Sustainable Human Development**" with sub-themes such as "violence against women and children during conflict period; women's contribution in conflict resolution; women's role in the development process; women, health of reproduction and HIV/AIDS". It started with a series of high-quality presentations on "gender-based violence in time of conflict" on traditional customs such a "softening the breast" and banishment or murder of "soul-eaters" or sorceresses (Cécile Ouédraogo), on the situation of child soldiers (Susanne Riveles), the potential of women for conflict resolution (Régina Tiens Bande from the West African Network for Peace



At the Teg Taaba camp

Building)⁶⁶. Nana Sabine of the repatriated Burkinabè women's group "Teg Taaba" moved the listeners with tales of the horrors her 700 members experienced during the civil unrest in Ivory Coast⁶⁷. Participants visited their camp in the suburbs of Ouagadougou and promised support for projects to rebuild their lives.

Workshops under the West Africa initiative were guided by Felicité Koublanou from Togo, Suna Diallo from Niger and Kay Fraleigh, IAW Hon. Vice-President.

The **50st session of the CSW, February 27 to March 10, 2006** decided for the first time to concentrate on one priority theme per year in the context of its yearly follow-up discussions to Beijing⁶⁸.

The **15th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**, held from April 24 to 28, 2006 at the VIC was attended by Alison and myself.⁶⁹ The Panel Discussion "Responding to Violence Against Women: The Role of the Criminal Justice System" paved the way for Draft Resolution X on "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice response to Violence Against Women and Girls"⁷⁰ for adoption by ECOSOC. *"NGO representatives in attendance were asked by UNODC to comment on its Strategy Paper for the coming years"*, Alison writes. *"As the UN develops and changes its policies of access for the NGO community (becoming more restrictive in some cases), it will be more important that International NGOs, like IAW be able to speak for non-accredited, local or national organisations"*.

October 2006: IAW Statement to the **Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime** – its Protocol on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.⁷¹

Again, the Alliance had to look for a venue for its **International Meeting November 12 to 17, 2006**. Due to the heated atmosphere after the publication of the Danish Mohammed cartoons, I regrettably had to cancel our meeting in Kuwait for which we already had a standing invitation from our member organisation, the Kuwaiti Union for Women's Associations. Yet, the cartoons and fears of our Board members to go to a Muslim country under these circumstances were not the only reason. The other was a political one. How could we come together well knowing that people with an Israeli passport would have difficulties to participate?

⁶⁷ Press release, AW

⁶⁸ Read Chipo's impressions in IWN 1/2006

⁶⁹ See report Brown, IWN 2/2006

⁷⁰ E/2006/30, E/CN.15/2006/20

⁷¹ See report Alison Brown in IWN 1/2007, page 7,8

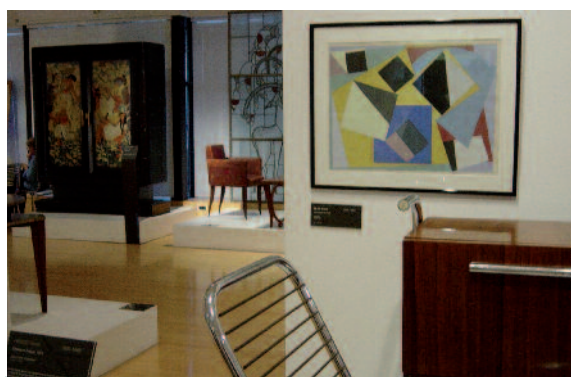
Once again, the miracle happened and I found another generous helper in the person of chère Monique Bouaziz who helped in her warm, spontaneous way to find the wonderful venue, the Centre FIAP Jean Monnet, in the heart of **Paris** where we found reasonable accommodation and excellent meeting facilities. This being settled, Monique's sister, Danielle Lévy, and our two member organizations, CILAF and AFEM joined preparations and made our days in Paris particular successful ones.

IWN 3/2006: Three panel discussions on women, power and politics brought together IAW members and distinguished French guest speakers for an interesting exchange of views and experiences. Under the title "Making the Difference" the International Meeting concluded with a presentation of Bettina Corke's documentary *"Together we lit up the sky. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela"*⁷² as well as a lively debate on the new IAW Action Programme to be further developed and submitted to Congress⁷³.

The Round Table on "Women – Conditions for Change in Health and Violence against Women" was held during the International Meeting⁷⁴. *"The Roundtable had a double purpose"*, explains Gudrun. *"It is part of the obligations agreed upon in the Plan of Collaboration between IAW and WHO, secondly, it was meant to stimulate discussion on the draft IAW AP 2008–2011."*⁷⁵

Christine Bruneau, the newly elected CILAF President (succeeding *"la Grande Dame du féminisme français,"* Marcelle Devaud), elected Deputy-Mayor of Boulogne-Billancourt, invited us to her town to visit the beautiful Albert-Kahn Garden and the treasures of the Museum of the Years 1930, when the town had become a famous centre of artistic and industrial production.

At the Sénat we were invited to a two-hour exchange of views with Sénatrice Gisèle Gautier, President of the Delegation for women's rights and equal opportunities between men and women.



French Art Nouveau

⁷² AW

⁷³ See report Weiss, IWN 3/2006

⁷⁴ See report Gudrun Haupter in IWN 3/2006

⁷⁵ Unfortunately, WHO cancelled the collaboration plan with IAW!



At the French Sénat



Manorama Bawa, Renée Gérard, Joanna Manganara, Joke Sebus, Helen Self, Rosy Weiss, Susanne Riveles, Helena Glaser, Rakesh Dhawan at the „Coupole“

Church Centre downstairs at Kay's "headquarters"
Lyda Verstegen, Danielle Lévy, Rosy Weiss, Manorama Bawa, Monique Bouaziz, Anje Wiersinga, Renée Gerard

A fashion show at the Galeries Lafayette and the farewell dinner under the famous “Coupole” concluded a very stimulating stay in Paris.

The year 2007 promised to become a very busy one. First, I attended the 51st session of the **CSW, February 26 to March 9** at UN headquarters, New York, supported by a strong IAW delegation⁷⁶. Its theme: “The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against the Girl Child” has been prepared by an online discussion held in August and September 2006.

IAW signed two important NGO statements. An extensive one “*the participation of girls must become common practice if policies for social and economic development are to be truly sustainable*” (see full text⁷⁷ and part of my intervention⁷⁸), the second on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality which emphasises the essential need for educational programmes from an early age.

Once again IAW sponsored successful side events: on “**violence against the girl child in work situations**” together with the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the New York Bar Association, on “**the missing girls**” together with AIWC, and on CRC (*Convention on the Rights of the Child*) and CEDAW, **legal mechanisms for eliminating discrimination and violence against girls**”.

The **7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government “Building Trust in Government”, Vienna,**

June 26 to 29, 2007. Since 1999, the Global Forum on Reinventing Government has addressed the need for improvements in governance and public administration. Its deliberations are explicitly designed to contribute directly to the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals by strengthening state capacity and improving

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77 IWN 3/2006

78 IWN 1/2007, see also assessment by Hélène Sackstein, page 4, 5

the quality of governance, one of my particular interests. IAW became one of the signatories to an NGO statement on the fact that women's participation in and contribution to **good governance** was once again not reflected in the agenda of the meeting. The statement said: *"Women the world over have made a significant contribution to building just and inclusive societies. This is particularly relevant following wars and struggles against dictatorships. However, this has not been translated into women acceding to positions of power. In many countries, achieving the involvement of more women in parliaments, governments, municipalities, the judiciary, and the administration has yet to be accomplished. It is a question of democratic principles: there are shortcomings in the representation of women in decision-making positions, which is why the introduction of relevant corrective mechanisms is needed. Progress towards good governance requires a transformation of social, economic and political structures in order to ensure women's full participation in this process, based on human rights and the rule of law".*

The outcome of the Forum was the **Vienna Declaration on Building Trust in Government**. Key recommendations include: Securing legitimacy of access of developing countries to ICTs (information and communication technologies); supporting effective civil society engagement; bringing governments closer to people; promoting government; prioritizing service delivery and access; enabling public-private partnerships; increasing transparency and accountability to combat corruption; improving new issues in public sector reform; and rebuilding trust in crisis and post conflict countries.

The Declaration included a direct response to the NGO statement:

*"5. Cognizant of the fact that women constitute more than 50% of the population and recognizing the critical role that they play in all spheres of life, we urge that women's concerns be central in the overall implementation of the recommendations contained in this Declaration"*⁷⁹.

On February 6, 2007 the African Women's Organization, a member organization of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women organized a very well attended meeting at the VIC in commemoration of the **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**. As President of the Alliance, I was asked to moderate the meeting. Panellists included the then First President of the Austrian Parliament, the late Barbara Prammer (who had invited us to the reception at the Austrian Parliament during the International Meeting in 2001!) and Berhane Ras-Work from the Inter-African Committee of Traditional Practices.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ See also my report in IWN 2/2007

⁸⁰ IWN 1/2007



Icelandic hospitality

In **June 2007, Kvenréttingafélag Islands** (the Icelandic Women's Association) invited me as one of the keynote speakers to their international conference on "A Place for Prostitution? Gender Equality and Respect in Modern Societies". A tricky topic for IAW, as we have not been able to come to a generally agreed position on prostitution. Some of you may remember the heated debates we had over the issue in Freiburg in 2004! The background of the conference was the Swedish legislation criminalizing the purchase of sex

and the determination of the majority of Icelandic women to get similar legislation in their country. The base for the Swedish criminalization of sex purchase is that prostitution is part of men's violence against women, and therefore an unwanted phenomenon in society. In countries where prostitution has been legalized, including brothels and pimping, as in Germany or in the Netherlands, the reasons for legalization were concerns that many of the women in prostitution were victims of trafficking, concerns over the working conditions for women in prostitution, crime related to prostitution, street prostitution, violence, child prostitution and the stigma placed on women practising prostitution.

United in Diversity – Women set the Agenda for 2015 was the general theme of the **XXXIV IAW Congress**, Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi, October 27 to November 2, 2007⁸¹ upon invitation of All India Women's Conference.

Important resolutions on the need for contraceptives, on the rise of HIV infection in women, in support of Amnesty International's campaign for access to abortion in cases of rape and incest, requesting the full implementation of UNSC Res. 1325 in Kosovo, reaffirming that religious and cultural traditions cannot serve as justification of women's human rights violations, as well as an urgent call for concrete steps towards ending war, conflicts and terrorism, have been carried unanimously. The Programme of Action for the years 2008 to 2010⁸² was adopted and IAW Commissions established according to its defined pillars. Round tables on human and civil rights, women peace and security, violence against women, trafficking, prostitution, health and women as entrepreneurs were held, as well as a Seminar on "Unity in Diversity – Women set the Agenda 2015" (year when the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) roadmap together with 18 time-bound targets based on 48 indicators should have been implemented. My intervention was delivered under the title "The Millennium

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Developments Goals – the Roadmap towards greater equity world-wide in 2015” and focused on the critics by INGOs, such as IAW, deploring the lack of human rights considerations, the lack of research on the root causes of poverty and deprivation as well as structural imbalances between and within regions, and the general lack of transparency of the whole process. NGOs criticised not only the concentration of equality concerns in MDG3, despite the fact that women have been working hard to try to introduce a gender perspective into all goals, but also the fact that political strategies to eradicate violence against women have been excluded from MDG3⁸³.

My mid-term report to the **Pre-Congress-Board** started with critical remarks. In my first presidential letter I had asked members for two things: confidence and active participation in the work of the Alliance. Not wishing to blame people for inactivity, well knowing that there are personal, professional or family reasons that have to be given priority, I nevertheless ask members to reflect thoroughly before becoming candidates. Not fulfilling the role expected is both unfair to the organisation and to others who might have wished to step up and had been discouraged⁸⁴.

In my opening remarks to congress⁸⁵ I ventured into my usual historic overview of the relations between the host organisation and IAW starting this time with “the IAW as a youngster of 19 years when the Indian Women’s Association became a member in 1923”. I also mentioned Carrie Chapman Catt’s visit to India in 1911 and the presence of Indian representatives at Congress in Berlin 1929, the International Committee Meeting, Marseille, 1933, and the Board meeting Amsterdam, 1936. I commended India for its constitutional amendments, “thus bringing an estimated of 1 million women into local political decision-making” and reiterated IAW’s support for the 33% quota for state legislatures and parliament. Finally, I expressed deep gratitude for this second invitation to come to Delhi after the 23rd IAW Congress held November 1973 under the theme “Partnership for Progress”.

A delightful reception in the splendid garden of the Lt. Governor’s residence, a splendid dinner offered by AIWC at the India International Centre, and an overwhelming invitation by the first woman President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil to join her reception in the “gloriously decorated room” completed an extraordinary meeting in the Ghandi Darshan.



Reception with President of India, Mrs. Patil

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84 AW

85 AW

52nd CSW session, N.Y. February 25 to March 7, 2008⁸⁶. Main topic “Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”, review theme “women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding”. On financing I note that only modest progress, if any, can be seen when it comes to turning commitments for adequate funding into real action. In addition, the Agreed Conclusions lack concrete targets, timetables or strong mechanisms for effective tracking or monitoring of financial resources spent on gender equality. As UNSG Ban Ki-moon stated, “**This failure of funding undermines not only our endeavours for gender equality and women’s empowerment as such; it also holds back our efforts to reach all the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)**”.

The review theme, so important to IAW, did not receive the attention it would have deserved given the importance of the finance issue. In addition to the two major issues, two events marked CSW52: the launch of the UN SG’s Campaign to end violence against women and an international expert panel on gender perspectives on climate change.

IAW co-sponsored two panels: one on **gender budgeting: gender justice of public expenditure** together with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers; the other one on **peace** with the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers.

The N.Y. Committee on the Status of Women (with Soon-Young Yoon as Vice-Chair) had issued a useful Handbook, organised an NGO Consultation Day and an International Artisans Craft Fair as well as a reception at the occasion of the Woman of Distinction Award. In my capacity as Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women I was given the possibility of addressing the NGO representatives during the daily NGO coordination meetings twice, and in the frame of the CONGO Board meeting held in the margins of CSW52.

Violence against women was discussed but remained contentious at the **17th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, April 14 to 18, 2008** at the VIC. “Despite all the talk, the long and strong resolution on strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls, participants could not reach a consensus, being blocked by certain delegations (“the usual suspects”) at every turn and in the end, the issue wound up as a short draft decision at the closure of the session.”⁸⁷ Where are the times when discussions about women’s issues were taken seriously at the global level?

86 See disappointing outcomes in IWN 1/2008, reports from me in English and from Monique Bouaziz and Danielle Lévy in French

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Athens 9 June 2008: Gender Equality and combatting sexual harassment. The Policies of the European Union, organized by the Greek League for Women's Rights.

In my introductory remarks⁸⁸ I reminded the audience that as early as 1990 the European Communities Employment and Social Affairs Ministers, meeting on 29 May, unanimously condemned sexual harassment “*which they considered as unacceptable, an intolerable violation of a worker's dignity and contrary to the principle of equal treatment at work*”. The resolution on sexual harassment, an initiative of the then Irish Presidency, gave Ministers a chance to recognise, for the first time, that this is a serious problem for many working women and an obstacle to their integration into the world of work. In addition, I gave an overview of the fight against sexual harassment at the global level, through implementation of the Beijing outcomes, CEDAW and the Millenium Development Goals.

“Réaffirmer les Droits de l'Homme pour tous. La Déclaration universelle à 60 ans”.
The Universal Declaration at its 60th anniversary, Paris, September 2008.

Eleanor Roosevelt in 1953: “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: The neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman or child seeks equal justice, equal opportunities, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world”.

The BALI Women's Union of Farming Groups, Cameroon, nominated by IAW, was awarded the **2008 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life** by the Women's Summit Foundation, Geneva.

On their way to the Board meeting in Den Haag and on **stop-over in London**, Rakesh Dhawan, treasurer, Priscilla Todd, IWNews editor, Pat Richardson, mem-



Simone Veil

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Priscilla with IWNNews issues

bership officer and I met with Helen Self and were invited by the Sri Lanka Women's Association UK to a most enjoyable afternoon tea at the Sekara Restaurant in London, meeting many of the Association's members, with members of the Josephine Butler Society, with Sarah Masters (IANSAs), with Teresa Doherty (Women's Library) – and Hilary Paddon, our long-standing French editor.

Helen Self took us to the **Women's Library**, where we had the chance to meet with Teresa Doherty again and to spend some "happy hours in the Reading Room delving into boxes of IAW archives".

The next day Helen and I went to Manchester to visit another IAW archive, containing the 286 files drawn from the International Woman Suffrage Alliance headquarters in London⁸⁹ after closure in 1989.

4 to 9 October 2008 Board Meeting NL, The Hague/Scheveningen/Amsterdam.

Our warm congratulations were presented to Vrowenbelangen for its 104 birthday.

The same age as IAW! And Netherlands women can proudly look back on 89 years of the right to vote!



International Women's Centre and Archives

IAW was back in the Netherlands. 100 years after its Amsterdam Congress in 1908 and 14 years after the International Committee meeting in 1994! A lovely dinner at Lyda's home brought us together on the first night and was the start of two days of intense Bureau business, the major discussion items being work on a new Constitution and on forward planning to encourage and enable broader involvement of more members in the work of the Alliance across all regions and at all levels⁹⁰. A **symposium on human rights education** brought us into the imposing Peace Palace, seat of the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Academy of International Law, and a library of international law.

89 IWN 3/2008

90 IWN 3/2008

In my welcome address to the Symposium, I stressed the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for the work of the Alliance and recalled that the fifteenth IAW Congress, Amsterdam, 1949, had already been placed under the topic “Women and Human Rights”. This was also the first of IAW Congresses placed under a particular theme. I further recalled the important role Eleanor Roosevelt played while serving as the first chair of the UN Human Rights Commission. Historians agree that without her leadership the Declaration would probably never have been adopted. She brought the 18 other members of the Commission together to cooperate effectively despite political differences, cultural barriers and personal rivalries.

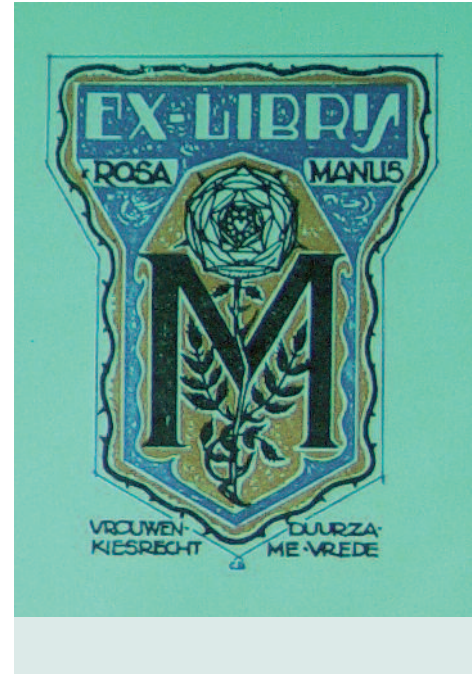
Well, the women of the world had to wait another 45 years until the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993, finally concluded that women’s rights are human rights.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Mayor of The Hague hosted receptions with interesting information provided to us on the great Dutch feminist Aletta Jacobs by biographer Mineke Bosch, and the importance of having a databank on women by two Councilwomen. The final session took place in Amsterdam and was devoted to an interesting workshop on the art of fund raising presented by Mama Cash.

After the Board meeting, members and observers visited the International Women’s Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement (IIAV, today called Atria, Institute on gender equality and women’s history), where the main IAW archives are housed⁹¹.

Archivist Annette Mevis spoke about the beginnings of the Centre with particular emphasis on its founder Rosa Manus⁹², whose archives have only recently been discovered in Moscow!

This, of course, was a moment of deep grievance for me, not only because of my admiration for this devoted and loyal woman, but for the atrocities committed – yes, also by Austrians – to women like Rosa or Frantiska Plaminkova, among so many, many others.



91 IWN 3/2008

92 *Studies in Jewish History: Rosa Manus*. Ed. Myriam Everard, Francisca Haan, 2017. Bought 2018 in Ravensbrück.

53 CSW, March 2 to 13, 2009, New York. Main topic “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS”. As Lyda Versteegen noted in IWN 4/2009, *not sure there would be any agreed conclusions this year, many NGO representatives attended until hours after the interpreters left as delegates negotiated until 6 in the morning of 13 March.*

The Agreed Conclusions also noted Convention 156 of the International Labour Organisation which calls for a reconciliation between work and family responsibilities. As the AC recognize the care-giving work in households, mostly assumed by women and girls, the document asked that such usually unpaid contribution must be measured!

IAW sponsored two parallel events. “What does equal sharing of responsibilities mean for the rural woman?” in partnership with the FAO/IAW & Women’s Working Group of the Ad Hoc Group of INGOs in Rome, and “The Climate Change Negotiations – an Action Agenda” together with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA). Its members include UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, WEDO and more than 20 UN agencies and civil society organisations.

March 2009, IAW condemnation of Taliban actions against girls in Pakistan taken to CSW53⁹³. Request for implementation of UNSCRes 1325 in Kosovo⁹⁴.

International Committee Meeting and Board, June 11 to 15, 2009, Heiden, Switzerland, celebrating the Centenary of Swiss Affiliate, svf/adf.



The organising team with dear Jessika (Kehl-Lauff)

Meetings all over the place: Board and International Meeting of IAW; Annual Conference, Delegates Meeting and Centenary Celebration of adf-svf! What a wonderful idea of our Swiss hostesses to invite IAW to this occasion!

Our meetings took place in the wonderful Art Nouveau room of the Hotel Linde, whereas the centenary celebration, in need for more space, was simply organized in Grub’s gym.



Art Nouveau Room, Hotel Linde

93 Letter to Pakistan Government and UNSG, AW

94 Letter to UNSG, President of UNSC, President of UNGA, AW

My presidential report centred around the contributions of IAW members during the past 3 years since the last International Meeting in Paris under the title **Participation, Competence and Expertise**⁹⁵. With much gratitude I have to mention here that our famous booklet, the collection of member's reports and alternative reports, initiated by Lene Pind, first appeared in Heiden. This "success story and glory" of IAW should, from now on appear every year, this was the decision unanimously taken by participants.

Round tables were organised on democracy, human rights, CEDAW, sexism in the media, violence and peace. The suggestions coming out of these discussions proposed the financial crisis as a new area of concern; that shadow reports and alternative reports to the Universal Periodic Review should be encouraged; to initiate research on the contributing factors to men's violence against women in peaceful countries; the drafting of a questionnaire concerning the position on prostitution in our different member organizations by IAW's HR Commission, and to initiate a survey on the political rights of women in the countries of IAW member organizations (degree of satisfaction, improvements needed). **The International Committee Meeting** recommended that time should be spent on discussing the future of the Alliance and on emerging issues, rather than on a new Action Programme.

Centenary celebration adf-svf, 14 June 2009, Gym of Grub⁹⁶. My keynote speech was delivered in French on the theme "**Women's Citizenship and Democracy**"⁹⁷, focussing on the long history of IAW in its fight for the political rights of women, for peace, against violence against women, for equal rights in economy and education, to only name a few of our preoccupations during this first century of our organization's existence.



Grub



attendance in the historical setting



Lene Pind, Rosy Weiss, Lyda Verstegen

95 AW

96 100 Jahre Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte. L'AIF et la Suisse. AW

97 AW



Once meetings, conferences, celebrations, brunch in Appenzell style, apéro riche and Alphorn serenade came to a much-regretted end, the **Feminist Tour of Switzerland** started. What a gorgeous idea from our Swiss friends!

We went by bus from our Hotel in Heiden to reach Lucerne at time for a reception of the gender-responsible authorities of the Canton. In Berne a round-table on “Money-in-fluence” was organized in the Townhall by the association Women and Politics.



Day two was considered a working day and was reserved for an overall introduction into problems of equality in a federally constituted democracy by “Madame

égalité Suisse”, Patrizia Schulz director of the Federal Office of Gender Equality, established in 1988.

After lunch we were given free time to visit Berne and its Paul-Klee-Museum. The day ended with our arrival in the medieval town Estavayer-Le-Lac on the Lake of Neuchâtel, an excellent dinner offered by the Associations of the Swiss Romandy in “La Source” and a relaxing night at wonderful, romantic “My Lady’s Manor”.



The banner at the Gym in Heiden

There couldn't be a better preparation for the next days launching of the "**Battle for Equal Rights**", title of the centenary publication of our Swiss affiliate adf-svf⁹⁸. We were honoured by the introductory speech of Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi, speaker of the Swiss National Council 2008/2009 and former president of the Federal commission on women's issues.

In my address, I offered an overview of 100 years of outstanding contributions of Swiss members to the aims and principles of the Alliance, beginning with the delegates to the Amsterdam Congress 1908, Elise Honegger and Antonia Girardet-Weille, followed by Emilie Gourd, who kept international relations open for the Alliance during the wars, to the invitation to Interla-



Patrizia Schulz

ken for the first post-war Congress in 1946 (President Elisabeth Vischer-Alioth), to Irmgard Rimondini – among so many others⁹⁹.



Chiara Simoneschi-Cortesi

The next day, departure to Geneva and its UN headquarters to attend two important gatherings. **Seminar on the international Organisations in Geneva** and UN-NGO-Partnership, June 19, Palais des Nations with Ricardo Espinosa, Chief of the NGO Liaison Office at the UN Office of the Director General at Geneva. Discussion centred on the question whether the UN needs INGOs like the Alliance; what should be **the place of a "feminist" organisation in the 21st century**; UN expectations in an INGO and what is IAW able to offer?

In my intervention I gave a short overview of IAWs activities and aims as an INGO in consultative status since 1947¹⁰⁰.

A Round Table discussion on Implementing internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to public health, MDG 5: Ma-



UN Geneva

98 AW

99 AW

100 AW

ternal Health, MDG 6: HIV/AIDS – More than just health issues? followed in the afternoon. Our panellists were H       Sackstein (France), one of our representatives to the UN Geneva, on maternal mortality, and Mmabatho Ramagoshi (South Africa) on violence against women and HIV.

Besides my usual criticisms on MDGs 5 and 6, I focused in my closing statement (written with the help of our main representative to WHO, Gudrun Haupter) on IAW's requests to establish and/or strengthen links between family planning and reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS programs thus generating cost-effectiveness and synergy effects, as for example the dual protection through condoms against both unintended pregnancy and infection with HIV; to introduce age-adapted sexual education in schools, thus preventing that decisions on what is right or wrong be guided by tradition and/or by ideologies; and to quantify maternal morbidity and maternal deaths in terms of lost opportunities of these women for promoting the economic and social development of their country. In conclusion, I gave an overview of the potential IAW is able to raise among its members, as INGO in consultative status, at national and regional levels and in cooperation with like-minded partner INGOs¹⁰¹.



In Waldkirch, on our road back from one end of Switzerland to the other, we were cordially received by the former printer of our International Women's News, Mr. Egger and his family.

The 35th session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, Rome, 14th to 17th October 2009 was attended by Bettina Corke and myself. The Committee dealt with its own reform including its relations with civil society organizations/NGOs.

Deutscher Frauenring: October 9, 2009: 60 years of work for women at home and abroad.

October 8 to 9, 1949, the re-establishment of the Deutsche Frauenring took place in Bad Pyrmont, after self-dissolution of the German women's associations in 1933 in an attempt to protect their Jewish members and in order to avoid integration into the NS Women's Association.

Today's DFR acts effectively both at national and international levels. As an IAW member organization, it counts among our most active and prestigious members, always ready to support IAW from the XXII Congress, 1970, in Koenigstein to our Centenary in Berlin and Freiburg, 2004. In Burkina Faso, 2005, IAW got acquainted with the generous work of DFR's International Committee. Initiated in the late 1970s by Brigitte Pross. Activities in West Africa covered the Foyer Brigitte Pross, where female students live and study in a safe environment, as well as awareness campaigns against female genital mutilation (FGN), craft training and literacy courses in Togo¹⁰².

In my very **personal message**¹⁰³ addressed to this anniversary ceremony, I asked how the IWSA would have managed to organize its founding Congress without Anita Augspurg, what would have been IAW's impact on education and health issues without the outstanding work of Grete Borgmann and Gudrun Haupter. What wonderful team have we been in Vienna in the late 80s with Brigitte Pross, Inge Heyl and my dear Dorothea Baumhaus-Khulusi, promising young lawyer and brilliant intern at the Vienna UN secretariat for crime prevention and criminal justice, who unfortunately passed out of life much too early.

Decision making by Women in Conflict Situations. Oral Statemen by IAW to the 54th CSW Session, Beijing+15, New York, March 1 to 12, 2010 *"Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development"*

IAW's **Shadow Report** produced at the occasion of this global 15-year review¹⁰⁴ offered an overview of initiatives undertaken by IAW member organizations in order to enhance decision-making of women in the solution of armed conflict within their respective countries. Recommendations to governments and intergovernmental bodies active in this field covered issues such as the development of national rosters of potential women candidates; the requirement to take into account the special needs of women and girls in resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, repatriation schemes; the guarantee that reconciliation protects women's human rights; the establishment of accessible and transparent warning systems with an integrated gender perspective; and the em-



The conference room seen from the NGO gallery

102 See report in 3/2009

103 My eulogy in German, AW

104 IWN 2/2010

powerment of women in sustainable peace processes. IAW is highly alarmed when the interdependence of women, peace and security as linked in UNSCR 1325 is reduced to women and security or even gender security as observed in NATO and EU military strategies on civil-military cooperation under military command. Concluding remark *“IAW therefore asks for a political not military cooperation between women’s organisations and the leading political stakeholders on an eye-to-eye level in all peace processes on all levels; peace women at the negotiation tables, not to the frontier!”*.¹⁰⁵



IAW delegates and friends celebrated Kay’s decades of successful service as main representative to the United Nations at a joint dinner.

I had prepared a „friendship book“ with contributions of Johanna Sterbin, Helen Self, Alison Brown, Ann Walker, Marijke Peters and Bettina Corke as well as many pictures, and presented it to Kay to-

gether with an acknowledgment document.



Seminar of the Deutsche Frauenring (DFR). July 2 to 4, 2010, Koenigswinter “15 years after Beijing 1995: Successes and Challenges for the Future”. Issues discussed included

the role of women in war and peace and in disarmament processes; choices of women as consumers for saving the environment; women’s role in the economy; micro credits; reproductive health and maternal mortality¹⁰⁶. My intervention held during the session dedicated to GEAR, the UN Gender Equality Reform and the newly created UN architecture for gender equality (UNWomen) reflected in principle what I already described in the chapter dedicated to the Commission on the Status of Women as well as on my experience with the implementation of the Beijing documents¹⁰⁷.

And finally: **The XXXVth Congress Boksburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, November 23 to 27, 2010 “Equality Now! Working together to Build a Safe Planet for All. No to Violence against Women”** upon invitation of the Mmabatho Foundation for Women’s Development. Delegates and participants representing

¹⁰⁵ IWN 2/2010

¹⁰⁶ IWN 2/2010

¹⁰⁷ Manuscripts in German, AW

26 countries as well as individual members from Asia, North America, Africa and Europe came together to consider topics such as peace and conflict resolution, health and education, human trafficking, violence against women, social and economic justice issues and customary (forced) marriages. The programme of work was devised in such a way as to allow interaction between international delegates and South African Women.

With focus on recent developments of African interest I mentioned in my report: the launch of the African Women's Decade 2010–2020 by the African Union; the 5th anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa; the coming start of the 16 days of activism against Gender Violence. I also recalled IAW's fight against intolerable social and economic situations of rural women, often excluded from land tenure, credit and business services as well as social security, against violence against women in all its forms, against maternal mortality and morbidity among others. In addition, I spoke about IAW's advocacy for accountability of governments in implementing existing legal obligations and moral commitments. IAW's strengths, I concluded, are participation, competence and expertise¹⁰⁸.

A special event on UNSC resolution 1325 started with a special message by Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury¹⁰⁹, "father" of this ground-breaking resolution 1325 in his function as President of the Security Council in 2000, that I had the honour to read out. My power-point presentation of the history and content of 1325 and following UNSC resolutions was followed by a vibrant discussion.

Important resolutions were adopted: against prevailing traditional and customary norms which very often abuse and exploit women and should urgently be harmonized with legal norms derived from international conventions, standards and decisions; welcoming UN Women, while calling for UNSC Res. 1325 to be included into its program of work; inviting member organizations to lobby national governments in order to implement 1325 and to hold national meetings in this respect; support of women refugees; urging of the UN and the UNSC in particular to define a mutual and more comprehensive approach to the already existing international, regional and



Lyda Verstegen, newly elected President,
with our historic gable, Rosy Weiss

¹⁰⁸ See minutes as agreed upon

¹⁰⁹ AW

national legal obligations to eliminate all forms of violence against women; on the suffering of women and children in the Middle East and support of the ongoing peace talks thereon; on the support of redress measures to the so called “comfort women”; on women, growth and the economic crisis. An IAW Peace Commission was set up with me as convener. And finally, after the elections, I happily handed banner and gavel over to my dear friend, Lyda Versteegen.

Afterthoughts

October 2022, Bad Vigaun, Medical Centre.

40 years of IAW commitment have flown by. The enrichment that my life has experienced through this my „second“ family cannot be measured. The list of companions I was privileged to meet is impressive, many of whom became faithful friends for a lifetime. We didn’t always agree – why should we? – but were always united in the great goal: to advance the women of this world in their striving for mental and

physical freedom in the spirit of our wonderful principles.

Generous invitations from our member organizations broadened the horizons of an inexperienced Central European and opened her up to all the beauty and the incredible richness of our planet. Although our zoom meetings¹¹⁰ are very convenient for me personally in Corona times and suffering from an increasing loss of mobility, I hope that direct contacts and discussion fora will soon become possible again.

And now, through a particularly friendly gesture from Alison – a book falls into my hands that couldn’t be more welcome: „Feminism. The Essential Historical Writings“. Edited with an introduction and commentaries by Mariam Schneir”.



Sofia Weiss

110 Under the impact of the Corona crisis the IAW is preparing for its digital meetings. Interestingly enough that already on 12 June 1997 IAW held a teleconference, attended by Pat Giles (President), Olive Bloomer (Hon. Past President), Pat Richardson (Membership Officer), Priscilla Todd (Secretary), Rosy Weiss (Vice-President), Anje Wiersinga (Treasurer), Marijke Peters (Past Treasurer), Patricia Goble (Regional Co-ordinator). Items discussed covered clarifying the roles of treasurer and membership officer, as well as accounting, maintenance of database, invoicing, IWNNews distributions.

Exactly the right reading for an IAW activist whose active years will end up as an archives officer and historian. The multifaceted history of our organization has always fascinated me. And so, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and many more, speak to us again from this wonderful book, so clearly, as if they had foreseen that the situation of women over hundred years later would still need smart, selfless and committed women. As our banner stipulates:

On a cloudy day as well as on a bright
Towards the future we raise our standard
Forward, through clouds and mist
Towards the light of a new day

Acknowledgments

My particular thanks go to all family members who helped me to complete this memoirs in time for another wonderful Christmas eve. They always occupied the first place in my life, followed by music – and, of course, IAW. What a chance I had: They never gave me bad feelings when I was absent from the family table for the negotiation tables of the various governmental and non-governmental settings like the UN in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Rome, the Council of Europe, OECD, and, of course, Europe, Brussels.

Here is also the place to remember my dear friend, the late Bettina Corke, who spent hours – while in Vienna for various UN meetings – to proofread the first part of the manuscript. And, finally: to thank my dear friend and 15th IAW President, Alison Brown, who gave the text the precision it needed, and Gisela Scheubmayr from www.subgrafik.at for the elaborated outlook.

And finally, this is by no means an academic script. It is the testimony of a life-long love-affair with an important WINGO. It is my hope that these data, supported by the documents in the various IAW archives and in my possession may interest future generations of scholars to further investigate into IAW's rich feminist HER-story over the past 40 years.

Attachments

1: IWN, contributions Weiss, 1985–2014

- IWN Vol 80 No 4/1985: p. 39: "Throwing violence out of the home".
- IWN Vol 82 No 4/1987: "Femme et homme interdépendants" (Report Salzburg Seminar)
- IWN Vol 91 No 3/1996: "Get Going Now"
- IWN Vol 92 No 3/1997: "News from the United Nations".
- IWN Vol 93 No 1/1998: Rapport Autriche: Suivie de Pékin
- IWN Vol 94 No 2/1999: "Towards Copenhagen+5". "Famille et travail en équilibre"
- IWN Vol 97 No 3/2002: "Make Masculinism Visible".
- IWN Vol 98 No 1/2003: "A Decade of Human Rights".
- IWN Vol 99 No 3/2004: President's letter, Report Jubilee Berlin – Freiburg
- IWN Vol 101 No 1/2006: Report CSW 50th session
- IWN Vol 101 No 3/2006: Report International Meeting, Paris
- IWN Vol 102 No 1/2007: Atelier d'experts, New Delhi, 30 octobre 2007, présentation sur les Objectifs du Millénaire
- IWN Vol 102 No 1/2007: "Compte-rendu de la cinquante et unième session de la Commission de la Condition de la Femme".
- IWN Vol 102 No 2/2007: 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government "Building Trust in Government", June 2007, Vienna. Report.
- IWN Vol 102 No 2/2007: "Y a-t-il une place pour la prostitution dans une société basée sur le respect et l'égalité des genres"? Report from Conference, Reykjavik. Kvenrettindafelag Islands.
- IWN Vol 103 No 1/2008: compiled report CSW, 52nd session
- IWN Vol 103 No 2/2008: Gender Equality and combatting sexual harassment: The Policies of the European Union, introductory remarks, Athens, 9 June 2008
- IWN Vol 103 No 3/2008: critique du livre "les nations désunies" de Malka Marcovich
- IWN Vol 103 No 3/2008: La Réunion du Bureau de l'Alliance
- IWN Vol 104 No 3/2009: Deutscher Frauenring celebrates 60 years of work for women at home and abroad
- IWN Vol 106 No 2/2011: Women's Archives of the National Library of Iceland
- IWN Vol 107 No 1/2012: 2011 Global Military Spending
- IWN Vol 108 No 1/2013: UNODC: Suivi de l'évolution de la criminalité organisée en Afrique de l'Ouest
- IWN Vol 109 No 1/2014: Militarism and Gender Violence.

2: IAW regional workshops and other meetings, 1982–2010

It is interesting to note that the Alliance organized important workshops during the 1980s, of which I have the proceedings (or other documents) without having had the opportunity to attend in person. It is interesting to see the topics, the funding agencies and co-organizing like-minded NGOs. Other national and international meetings, not so well documented and covering the reporting period, may complete the picture.

1982 Helsinki University: Workshop on Employment Patterns in the 80's, organized by the Alliance and Unioni Naisasialiito Suemessa Ry, sponsored by the European Economic Community, NORAD, SIDA, the Foreign Ministry of Finland, Unioni and IAW. Olive Bloomer, Hilda Tweedy, Laurel Casinader, Neelima Ibrahim, Ruth Motsete, Ellen Sessar-Karp, Martine Levy, Amy Mokorosi, Nesta Patrick and Prisca Molotsi participated among others and contributed to the success of the event.

Resolution on Funding: The IAW, understanding that overseas aid rarely reaches women in developing countries, especially in rural areas, recommends that affiliates urge their government to influence the UN and all funding agencies to appoint representatives from women's non-governmental organisations to all planning committees for aid to developing countries and to ensure that all national women's organisations are involved in the distributions of aid.

- 1982** Lusaka, Zambia: **Regional Literacy Workshop**. Equality of education. Opportunity for Girls and Women.
- 1983** Nicosia, Cyprus: **The Impact of Technology on Women in Employment**.
- 1984** Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: **Regional workshop on handicrafts, training for small business development and better family living**. Laurel Casinader organized it in cooperation with IPPF, the National YWCA and Family Planning Organisation. Olive Bloomer served as resource person. Funding agencies sponsoring the workshop were UNFPA, IPPF, Canadian International Development Agency, UNESCO and the Australian Development Assistance Bureau.
- 1985** Lusaka: **IAW Regional Workshop on "Food for Africa. The Promotion of Traditional and Under-utilized Foodstuff"**. Organized by the **Zambian Alliance of Women**.
- 1985** West Berlin: **European Workshop on Sexism, Language and Education**.
- 1986** Mauritius, **Workshop on Attitudes towards New Responsibilities**. (Self-help schemes, employment and family responsibilities, training and education for new employment opportunities, strategies for promoting the equality of women, attitudes towards new employment opportunities).
- 1986** Navan, Bellinter Centre, Ireland. IAW organized a **workshop on peace through human rights and international understanding** together with the Irish Housewives Association and the Irish Council for the Status of Women. Sponsors included the UN Secretariat for the International Year of Peace, the Minister of State for Women's Affairs in Ireland and the Greek Foundation for Human Rights. Olive Bloomer, Hilda Tweedy, Madge McQuaid, Marijke Peters, Amy Bush, Constance Rover, Terpsi Lambrinopoulou and Alice Marangopoulos were among the participants.
- 1988** Strasbourg, France: **The increasing importance of women in the North-South Cooperation**.
- 1989** Melbourne, Women's Electoral Lobby, Seminar on **development and empowerment**
- 1991** Lusaka, Zambia: SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference) **Regional Workshop on Energy Saving Cookers**. Production of a manual on cookstoves, funded by UNDP, NORAD, DANIDA.
- 1991** Aarhus, Denmark: **CEDAW Conference**. IAW and Danish Women's Society. Report Dansk Kvindesamfund 1992. See also Helen Self: IWN Vol 87 No 1/1992.
- 1992** Athens, **Seminar on Parity Democracy – the contemporary concept of Democracy and gender equality**. Sponsored by various Greek Ministries, the Council of Europe, several Greek Banks, Deutscher Frauenring, the Chave Collisson Trust, the Frauenzirkel Austria and the League of Women Voters of Japan.
- 1993** Lusaka, Zambia. Zambia Alliance of Women:
 - Seminar on **Environment and Development; Women for a Healthy Planet**. Sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), the Royal Danish Embassy.
 - Workshop on Training for Trainers.
- 1994** Rotterdam, Erasmus University: **Effective Strategies and National Machinery**. IAW, Vrouwenbelangen. IWN Vol 89 No 3/1994.
- 1995** Cairo, ICPD, NGO Forum: **Better Access to Family Planning for All**. Seminar organised by IAW and The Medical Women's International Association.
- 1995** Fédération des Femmes Burkinabe: **Séminaire sur « Les Droits de la Cellule Familiale »**.
- 1996** Calcutta, India: **Girl Child**

- 1997** Paris: Pékin+5
- 1998** Malmö, Sweden, Conference on Fundamentalism in Relation to Women's Rights.
- 2000** Cyprus, International Conference on Family Violence, IAW workshop on domestic violence
- 2001** Odense, Denmark: CEDAW Conference. IAW and Danish Women's Society. Dansk Kvindesamfund
- 2001** Vienna: Seminar on Women in the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, briefing on the UN and NGOs in Vienna
- 2002** Sri Lanka, Seminar on Mechanisms for a Shared Global leadership for a New Millenium
- 2003** Santo Domingo, Seminar on Domestic Violence, a Menace to a Healthy Society
- 2004** Freiburg, Seminar organised by the DFR on issues on Participation in Politics, Economy and Society.
- 2005** Lusaka, Seminar on Women, Equality and Peace for a Sustainable Human Development, supported by the Regional Offices of UNICEF in Togo and Senegal, and the Francophonie.
- 2005** New Delhi, Seminar on women in political decision-making
- 2006** Paris, Roundtable on Women – Conditions for Change in Health and Violence against Women.
- 2007** CSW side event on violence against the girl child in work situations: challenges and responses
- 2007** CSW side event on the missing girl
- 2007** New Delhi, Seminar on Unity in Diversity – Women set the Agenda 2015 (MDGs to be implemented).
- 2008** The Hague, Peace Palace, Symposium on Human Rights Education.
- 2008** CSW New York, Panel "on gender budgeting: gender justice of public expenditure, Panel on "financing for CEDAW and the UN Seccurity Council Resolution 1325"
- 2009** CSW New York, side events "climate change"; "the advancement of rural women"
- 2009** Switzerland, Seminar on the International Organisations in Geneva and UN-NGO Partnership; Roundtable on implementing internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regards to public health, MDG5. More than just health issues?
- 2010** Johannesburg, special event on UNSC resolution 1325. Roundtable "Women's Health".

3: Representation at UN Vienna

The "Vienna Team" included: Brigitte Pross, Inge Heyl, Marijke Peters, Marieluise Weber, Dorothea Baumhaus-Khulusi (legal issues, violence), Ursula Keller-Kuhlmann (aging), Ingrid Heydtmann (family), Dr. Ida Kurth (environment), Dr. Therese Neuer-Miebach (disabled), Anna-Maria Bleckmann (IWRAW), Anneliese Peters (political participation), and Alice Marangopoulos, Olive Bloomer, Kay Fraleigh, Prisca Molotsi, Chana Elroy (for the CSW), Alison Brown (crime prevention and criminal justice), Rosy Weiss.

a: Participatiom in UN meetings 1986–2003

- 1986** Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family with special Emphasis on its Effects on Women. 9–12/12. Background paper no 3 by Ch. Elroy. Expert: H. Elroy. Reps: Pross, Heyl, Baumhaus, Weiss.
- 1987** Commission on Narcotic Drugs. 2–11/2. Rep: Weiss
 Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as preparatory body for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. 12–18/2. Rep: Weiss

Inter-agency meeting on the UN Decade of Disabled Persons, 18–20/2. Rep: Weiss

Commission for Social Development, 23/2–4/3. Reps: Keller-Kuhlmann, Weiss.

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. 23/3– 3/4. Reps: Fraleigh, Baumhaus, Weiss.

UN International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. 17–26/6. Rep: Wenzke

Interregional Consultation on Development, Social Welfare Policies and Programmes. 7–15/9. Reps: Pross, Keller-Kuhlmann

Expert Group Meeting on National Machineries for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women. 28/9–2/10. Reps: Rimondini, Weiss.

1988 UN-Seminar on Information Systems for the Advancement of Women for National Machinery. 25–29/1. Reps: Baumhaus, Weiss

Interregional preparatory meeting for the 8th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime: Topic I: Crime prevention in the context of development. 15–19/2. Reps: Baumhaus, Weiss.

Expert Group Meeting to review the final draft of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. 13–17/2. Rep. Kinsky, Amann

Interagency meeting on system-wide co-ordination of policies and programs in the field of aging. 10–11/3. Rep: Keller-Kuhlmann.

Commission on the Status of Women. 14–23/3. Reps: Bloomer, Pross, Fraleigh, Heyl, Elroy, Keller-Kuhlmann, Baumhaus, Weiss. IAW statement on violence in the family, particularly against elderly women. Joint statements on national machinery, violence against women, women in the UN system, unpaid work and rural women.

UNIDO seminar on “Women and Human Resource Development for Industry”. 22–23/3. Rep: Pross.

Inter-agency preparatory meeting on women. 24–25/3. Reps: Pross, Weiss.

Interregional preparatory meeting for the 8th Congress on the Prevention of Crime. Topic 4 (youth). 18–22/4. Rep: Baumhaus.

Interregional preparatory meeting. Topic 2 (imprisonment). 31/5–1/6. Reps: Baumhaus, Weiss. Oral statement on pregnant women and mothers of young children in detention.

Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. 22–31/8. Reps: Baumhaus, Weiss. Oral statement on the financial situation of shelters for battered women.

Inter-agency consultation on the follow-up of the 7th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. 1–2/9. Reps: Mochos, Elroy, Heyl, Baumhaus.

UN Advisory Seminar on Women and the Economic Crisis. 7/10. Reps: Peters, Heyl, Keller-Kuhlmann.

UN Expert Group Meeting on Social Support Services for the Advancement of Women. 14–18/11. Reps: Pross, Weiss.

1989 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women. 20/2–3/3. Reps: Rimondini, Haupter, Baumhaus.

UN Social Development Commission. 13–22/3. Reps: Keller-Kuhlmann, Kinsky, Weiss. Oral statement on the social situation of families: Results of the Survey of national policies for families. Joint statement on elderly women.

UN Commission on the Status of Women. 29/3–7/4. Reps: Bloomer, Pross, Marangopoulos, Elroy, Fraleigh, Heyl, Peters. Joint statements on elderly women, on education and eradication of illiteracy, on employment, on social support services.

International Seminar on Women and Rural Development, Programmes and Projects. 22–26/5. Rep: Weiss

Expert Group Meeting on Equality in Political Participation and Decision-Making. 18–22/9. Rep: Pross.

- 1990** Expert Group Meeting on Women and HIV/AIDS and the role of national machineries for the advancement of women. 24–28/9. Reps: Pross, Baumhaus. Report: IWN 1/1991.

Expert Group Meeting on vulnerable women with special emphasis on female heads of households. 26–30/11. Reps: Peters, Keller-Kuhlmann. Report: IWN 1/1991

Consultative meeting with international non-governmental organisations as an input to a strategy paper on disabled persons to the year 2000 and beyond. 3–4/12. Rep: Neuer-Miebach.

- 1991** Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 10th session. 21/1–1/2. Reps: Heyl, Peters, Bleckmann. Report: IWN 2/1991

Commission for Social Development. 11–20/2. Reps: Baumhaus, Weiss. Report: IWN 2/1991

Informal meeting of the preparatory committee on the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, 20–21/2. Rep: Baumhaus.

Commission on the Status of Women. 27/2–8/3. Reps: Marangopoulos, Fraleigh-Potts, Weiss. Statements on the quota system and on women as caregivers.

Expert Group Meeting on the role of women in public life, 21–24/5. Reps: Pross, Peters

Seminar on Women, Aging and Development. 7–11/10. Reps: Keller-Kuhlmann, Weber.

Expert Group Meetings on Violence against Women. 11–15/11. Reps: Heyl, Baumhaus, Weiss.

Seminar on Integration of Women in Development, 9–13/12. Reps: Heydtmann, Weiss

WHO, City of Vienna. Congress “Women, Health and Urban Policies”. Rep: Kurth

- 1992** Commission on the Status of Women. Equality: Elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women. Development: Integration of women in the process of development and women and the environment. Peace: Equal participation in all efforts to promote international cooperation, peace and disarmament. Also on the agenda: Appraisal of the results from seminar on the current and projected situation of women as they age, marking the 10th anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Aging. The session also decided on the venue of the 1995 Women’s World Conference.

UN-Seminar on Women in extreme poverty, integration of women’s concerns in national development planning. 9–13/11. Reps: Keller-Kuhlmann, Weiss.

- 1993** Last session of the Commission on the Status of Women in Vienna, 17–26/3. Increased awareness by women of their rights, including legal literacy; women in extreme poverty: integration of women’s concerns in national development planning; women and the peace process. Workshop on legal literacy. Article in IWN 2/1993 on accessibility for handicapped women. (From my report: “After departure of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to New York in 1993 the remaining parts of the Secretariat and the Specialised Agencies still in Vienna are: Division of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Narcotic Drugs (re-structured into the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention – ODCCP), Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Secretariat, UNIDO, IAEA. NGO Committees in Vienna accordingly: Crime Prevention, Narcotic Drugs. The Committees on Women and the Family are struggling to make the best out of this situation.

Human Rights Conference. 14–25/6. IAW support to joint NGO statements on access to the UN; right to education and human rights education; lesbian and gay rights; the strengthening of human rights mechanisms; against slavery and slavery-like practices and the exploitation of women; against the exploitation of women by local and global sex industries. Reps: Marangopoulos, Elroy, Baumhaus-Khulusi, Alison Brown. (Report Brown in my files).

- 1994** European Preparatory Meeting for the UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, co-chaired by A. Marangopoulos!

IAW statement on the systemic bias against women as victims and accused in all branches of the system and recommended gender awareness training for all civil servants as a remedy. Report: IWN 2/1994. Rep: Brown.

- 1996** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Reps: A. Marangopoulos, A. Brown. Prominent role of IAW in the drafting of the draft Plan of Action on the elimination of violence against women. Debated were the denial of nourishment, education to girls, and traditional practices as form of structural violence. IAW contributions covered education of the judiciary, increasing the number of women in the police force, organised trafficking in persons.

83. ILO session concluded an important agreement on self-employment. Rep: Brown

- 1997** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Report IWN 3/1997. The Commission decided to establish an open-ended Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the discussion on the elaboration of an international instrument addressing trafficking in women and children! The Commission recommended a workshop on women in the criminal justice system to be organized during the 10th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

- 1998** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Statement by IAW delegate Rebecca Peters on violence against women and measures to regulate firearms. Reps: Peters, Weiss

- 1999** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 1/4–27/5. On the agenda: Elimination of violence against women. Elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime.

UNIDO Board Meeting. On the agenda the restructuring of the organisation and co-operation with NGOs. Rep: Weiss.

OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe), Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights: 14–15/6. Supplementary meeting on gender issues with particular focus on women. Rep: Weiss

- 2000** 10th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Workshop on Women in the Criminal Justice System. 10–17/4. Crime and justice, meeting the challenges in the 21st century. Women in the criminal justice system. (Pre-congress NGO consultation, 9/4.) Rep: Baumhaus

- 2003** Commission on the Status of Women, NY 4–13/3. IAW statement on the “Participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”.

b: Participatiom in NGO meetings 1986–1993

- 1986** Tree planting ceremony and unveiling of a plaque commemorating the International Year of Peace by NGOs, UN and City of Vienna officials in the Garden of Peace near the Vienna Pagoda on the banks of the river Danube. Rep: Weiss.

CONGO meeting. 6/11. Rep: Weiss.

Seminar “Peace through confidence-building: How can NGO s contribute?”. 27/11. Rep: Weiss.

- 1987** Seminar “The Family – a Marginal Group as the Basis of Society?”. 20/2. Rep: Weiss.

Seminar International Women’s Rights Action Watch, 29–31/3. Vienna, Hotel Hilton. Rep: Weiss. Report AW

NGO Forum parallel to the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. 17–26/6. Reps: Mochos, Wenzke.

NGO Seminar “Shelter – A Human Right”. 5/10. Rep: Weiss

1988 Seminar “The Family – a Threat to the Freedom of its Individual Members?”. 11/11. Reps: Pross, Kinsky, Heydtmann, Amann

1989 IRAW (International Women’s Rights Action Watch) Seminar “Women, Human Rights and Development”. 20–22/2. Reps: Rimondini, Haupter.

1990 NGO Consultation, Vienna, 22–23/2. (prior to the extended session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, 26.2.–8.3.1990). Rep: Prisca Molotsi, Zambia. IAW workshop on “coalition building”.

1991 IRAW Seminar “Women’s Leadership, Development and Reproductive Rights”, 18–22/1. Reps: Heyl, Peters, Bleckmann. (Comments: Despite the efforts of Gudrun Haupter and myself, it was not possible to having accepted (and funded) one single IAW expert by IRAW, although Nesta Patrick, Aroti Dutt, Amy Mokorosi and Mona Koreshi have been prepared to come to Vienna. IRAW considered our experts as “too accomplished” for what they qualify as “emerging leaders”. – And again the meeting was attended by our European experts only!

Seminar of the NGO Family Committee. 7–8/2. Rep: Heydtmann

CONGO meeting. 25/2. Rep: Fraleigh-Potts.

NGO Consultation prior to the Commission on the Status of Women. 26/2. Reps: Fraleigh-Potts, Weiss.

Conference on a more Democratic UN. 17–19/9. Reps: Pross, Weiss.

Informal Consultative Meeting of NGO Group on International Year of the Family. 19/11. Rep: Weiss.

1992 NGO Symposium “There’s a Future in Aging”. 1/10. Rep: Weiss

NGO International Seminar on Family and Environment: A Partnership. 30/11–1/12. Reps: Pross, Kurth, Weiss

Meeting of the International Council on Disability. 30/11–2/12. Rep: Neuer-Miebach

Fifth NGO Consultative Meeting on Disability. 3–4/12. Rep: Neuer-Miebach

1993 NGO Consultation prior to CSW, 15–16/3.

Addendum IV: IAW statements during period of reporting 1983–2010

joint	single	Body addressed	date	place	item/theme
	oral	CSW as preparatory body for 1985, Nairobi	23 February–4 March 1983	Vienna	preparations for Nairobi, violence against women, local women, value of unpaid work
	x	CSW 30 th session, second session	27 February–7 March 1984	Vienna	impact of new technology on women in employment
x		CSW 30 th session, second session	27 February–7 March 1984	Vienna	status of preparation of world survey on the role of women in development
x	oral	Mid-term review of SNPA	30 September–11 October 1985	Geneva	implementation of SNPA, food production, rural women
	x	CSW 32 nd session	14–23 March 1988	Vienna	violence in the family, particularly against elderly women
x		CSW 32 nd session	14–23 March 1988	Vienna	national machinery, violence against women, women in the UN system, unpaid work and rural women
x		CSW 32 nd session	14–23 March 1988	Vienna	
	x	Interr. Prep. Meeting, crime prevention	31 May–1 June 1988	Vienna	national machinery, violence against women, women in the UN system,
	x	Committee on Crime Prev. and Criminal Justice	22–31 August 1988	Vienna	the financial situation of shelters for battered women
x		CSW 33 rd session	29 March–7 April 1989	Vienna	women's work in the informal sector, day-care facilities, reforms of the pension systems and employment opportunities for disabled women. Flexible educational system
x		CSW 33 rd session	29 March–7 April 1989	Vienna	flexitime, qualified part time jobs, re-entry possibilities for mothers
x		CSW 33 rd session	29 March–7 April 1989	Vienna	participation of elderly women
	x	CSW 33 rd session	29 March–7 April 1989	Vienna	access to education, flexible educational systems, vocational training
	oral	CSocD 31 st session	11–22 March	Vienna	social situation of families
x		ILO Committee on night work	June 1989	Geneva	revision of labour standards on night work
	x	CSW 34 th session	26 February–8 March 1990	Vienna	equality in political participation and decision-making. Negative effects of the international economic situation on the improvement of the status of women
	x	CSW 35 th	27 February–8 March 1991	Vienna	vulnerable women, including migrant women
x		European Population Conference	23–26 March 1993	Geneva	responsible population policy based on equality between women and men
	x	Europ. Prep. Meeting for UN Crime Congress	1994	Vienna	the systemic bias against women as victims and accused in all branches of the system and recommended gender awareness training for all civil servants as a remedy
x		ICPD, IAW/MWIA Seminar, Declaration	September 1994	Cairo	the right to make reproductive decisions, quality of family planning services
	oral	Commission on Crime Prev. and Criminal Justice	May 1996	Vienna	on trafficking in women
	oral	Commission on Crime Prev. and Criminal Justice	27 April 1998	Vienna	violence against women and measures to regulate firearms
x		CSW 43 rd	1–19 March 1999	Vienna	Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
x		CSW 43 rd	1–19 March 1999	Vienna	older women
x		CSW 45 th	6–16 March 2001	New York	gender, HIV/AIDS and racism
x		CSW 45 th	6–16 March 2001	New York	supporting UNIFEM, promotion of the role of women in conflict-resolution and peace-building
x		CCPCJ	May 2001	Vienna	in support for crime victims
x		FAO	October 2001	Rome	implementation of the World Food Summit' outcome
	x	IAW IM	November 2001	Vienna	statement in support of the women in Afghanistan
x		CSW 47 th	4–13 March 2003	New York	women, media and information and communication technologies
x		CSW 47 th	4–13 March 2003	New York	women human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence

joint	single	Body addressed	date	place	item/theme
x		HR Commission, 59 th session	17 March–25 April, 2003	Geneva	condemnation of the war in Iraq
x		CSW 48 th	1–12 March 2004		implementing 1325 in post-conflict peace building in Afghanistan
x		CSW 49 th	28 February–11 March 2005	New York	support for UNIFEM's efforts to fulfil the Beijing commitments, the value of unpaid work of women
x		CSW 49 th	28 February–11 March 2005	New York	the need to upgrade and better resource the gender architecture and its related mechanisms within the UN, and to improve the low percentage of women in high level posts within the UN system
	oral	HR Commission, 61 st session	April 2005	Geneva	violence against women
x		HR Commission, 61 st session		Geneva	the MDGs and the need for rights-based approaches to health
	oral	FAO	24 May 2005	Rome	assessment of the World Food Security Situation
x		WHO, 58 th World Health Assembly	May 2005	Geneva	the need for raising health research funding
x		Trade and Development Board, 52 th session	October 2005	Geneva	gender approach and poverty eradication
x		CSW 50 th	27 February–10 March 2006	New York	the impact of trafficking and prostitution on the advancement of women
x	written	declaration to the European Parliament	February 2006		women's right to self-determination and adequate sex education and family planning in the EU
	oral	1 COP FCTC	6–16 February 2006	Geneva	tobacco control
	oral	COP to UN Conv. on Transnational Organized Crime	October 2006	Vienna	trafficking in women, data collection
x	x	4 th special session of the HRC on Darfur	December 2006	Geneva	message on rape as weapon of war
		4 th session Human Rights Council	March 2007	Geneva	a massive Human Rights catastrophe: Maternal Mortality
x		CSW 51 st	26 February–9 March 2007	New York	The Girl Child
x		CSW 51 st	26 February–9 March 2007	New York	the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality with emphasis of the essential need for educational programmes from an early age
x		7 th session Human Rights Council	March 2008	Geneva	eradication of extreme poverty, the human right to peace
x		8 th session Human Rights Council	May 2008	Geneva	the right to education on peace and human rights
x		CSW 52 nd	25 February–5 March 2008	New York	financing and peace
	x	CSW 53 rd	2–13 March 2009	New York	care work and decision-making
x		CSW 53 rd	2–13 March 2009	New York	legislation for gender equality and the empowerment of women in care work
x		HRC, 10 th session	March 2009	Geneva	HR education and civil society participation
	oral	FAO Food Summit, Civil Society Forum	13–17 November 2009	Rome	equal representation of women in policy and decision making in food security
x		Commission on Population and Developm. 42 nd	2009	New York	improving maternal health
	oral	CSW 54 th	March 2010	New York	decision making by women in conflict situations
	oral	WHA 63 rd	May 2010	Geneva	reproductive Health Strategy

Abbreviations

AC – agreed conclusions

ADDEM – Alianza Per Los Derechos Y El Desarrollo de la Mujer Y la Familia

AW – Archives Weiss

CCPCJ – UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

COP – Conference of the Parties

CSocD – UN Commission on Social Development

CSW – Commission on the Status of Women

DANIDA – Danish International Development Agency

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

FCTC – WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

HRC – UN Human Rights Council

ICPD – International Conference on Population and Development

ILO – International Labour Organisation

IM – International Committee Meeting, IAW

IPPF – International Planned Parenthood Federation

IWN – International Women’s News

IWSA – International Woman Suffrage Alliance

MDG – Millenium Development Goal

MWIA – Medical Women’s International Association

PrepCom – Preparatory Committee

Rep – Representative

SG – Secretary General

SIDA – Swedish International Development Agency

SNPA – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme

SS – NS Schutzstaffel (National Socialist regime, Nazi)

UNDP – UN International Development Fund

UNICEF – UN International Children’s Emergency Fund

UNFPA – UN Population Fund

UNODC – UN Office on Drugs and Crime

UNSC – UN Security Council

VIC – Vienna International Centre

WCW – World Women Conference

WHA – World Health Assembly

WHO – UN World Health Organization

WILPF – Women International League for Peace and Freedom

WWII – World War Two

YWCA – Young Women’s Christian Association



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Directors - James E. Bates
Bates