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President
Joanna Manganara

IAW Board Meeting
in October

Dear members and subscribers,

At the 2013 Congress in London, Joke Sebus, editor of the Newsletter for many years, stepped down, and much to the regret of everybody, there was no one to take over. Now an editorial group has been established consisting of:

*Lene Pind, Denmark
Anne Pelagie, Cameroon
Maria Rydahl Ahlgreen, Denmark
Katerina Siomopoulou, Greece
Zainab Syed, Australia/ Pakistan*

First of all we wish to thank Joke Sebus for all her work. She has kindly offered to send out the Newsletter by email as in the past, and we are also grateful that Priscilla Todd, editor of International Women's News, will continue to give advice.

We would like to join Joke in acknowledging all of you who supported her during those years. We hope that you will continue to support the new editorial group. This is your newsletter and we look forward to receiving news items as well as constructive criticism from you.

Please send news items to Lene Pind lenepind@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

New leadership

At Congress in London in September 2013 a new leadership was elected: President is Joanna Manganara, Greece, and Secretary General Mmabatho Ramagoshi, South Africa. For more information about the members of the board, visit www.womenalliance.org

Board Meeting October 2- 6 2014

Association Suisse pour les droits des femmes/ Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte (ADF/SVF) has kindly invited the IAW board to hold this year's Board meeting in Sion in Switzerland. More information, including programme and registration papers, is available from Mmabatho Ramagoshi at iawsec@womenalliance.org. Deadline for registration is September 1. Deadline for sending annual reports to Lene Pind lenepind@gmail.com is also September 1.

IAW has a new website

Birth registration is a human right

Take some time to answer the questionnaire, please>>>>>>>>

More than 700 million women alive today were married as children

New media

IAW has a new website www.womenalliance.org, is active on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/womenalliance> and is on twitter <https://twitter.com/womenalliance>

We invite everybody to follow the work of IAW on these media and to share the information given there.

Birth Registration

Lyda Verstegen, convener of the IAW Human Rights Commission, has sent us the following:

“Dear members,

Last year I was appalled to find out that many children lacked an official identity because their birth was not registered, over 50 million a year. UNICEF is working to reduce that number, so is PLAN International.

Birth registration is a human right; it is prescribed as an obligation of States in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (art. 7). It is in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

At Congress, last September. IAW adopted a resolution on Birth Registration.

I promised - as convener of the Human Rights Commission- to make a questionnaire to help PLAN and the Interparliamentary Union in their efforts.

The questionnaire is not very big and some data are in the UNICEF document mentioned at the end.

I do hope you will take some time to answer it:

<http://www.emailenquete.nl/enquete.php?t8DS7Jt6nJ>

In sisterhood....Lyda”

Read also [“Don’t fear the registrar”](#) on the IAW website

Why Child Marriage needs to be ended

By Gudrun Haupter, convener of the IAW Commission on Health

Child marriage is about marrying girls before their 18th birthday. The practice violates their human rights in many ways. The most relevant human rights instrument is the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC. The Convention states a child’s right to health, to education, the protection from

The perspective:

If nothing more is done to end the practice, the number of married girls could increase to more than 1 billion worldwide by 2050.

Examples of action

violence. Participation is one of the guiding principles. The goal is the universal implementation of the CRC.

The scope of the issue: According to UNICEF data released in 2014 more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, with one in three of them married before their 15th birthday. The prevalence of child marriage (meaning the percentage of girls concerned), has fallen slightly over the past 30 years. However, a global population boom in countries where the practice is common means just as many girls are being pushed by patriarchy and ignorance into harmful situations. This means for example: Despite a decrease in teenage pregnancies, more than 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide give birth every year. The majority of these pregnancies take place within marriage, and a significant number results from non-consensual sex. Young teenage girls are more likely to die due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth than women in their 20s; their infants are more likely to be stillborn or die in the first month of life.

The perspective: If nothing more is done to end the practice, the number of married girls could increase to more than 1 billion worldwide by 2050. Population estimates suggest the number could leap from 700 million to 950 million by 2030 and 1.2 billion by 2050.

The below examples of action and awareness-raising show the problems of child marriage are tackled at various levels.

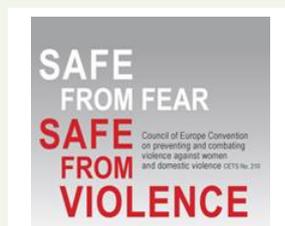
<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/HRC-resolution-on-child-early-and-forced-marriage-ENG.pdf> Importantly, countries with high rates of child marriage, including Chad, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Yemen, co-sponsored the resolution of the Human Rights Council.

<http://unfpa.org/endchildmarriage>

<http://africa.unfpa.org/public/site/africa/cache/offonce/news/pid/17496;jsessionid=8B178F2B848F13E07BF0E3F4C5407126.jahia01> Here, you find a statement pronounced at the launch of the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.

According to UNICEF about one third of child brides live in India.

The report issued by the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 is on <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/ending-child-marriage-needs-done-icpd-beyond-2014-report/>



Good news for all NGOs
UN Secretary General
recommends that NGOs are
given better opportunities
for influencing the work of
CSW

Highly concerned about the persistence, extent and consequences of child marriage, IAW in 2013 adopted the resolution [LET GIRLS BE GIRLS – NOT BRIDES](#) proposed by the convener of the Commission on Health

See also <https://twitter.com/search?q=%23childmarriage>

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Istanbul Convention has entered into force

[See IAW website](#)
[Text of Convention](#)

UNITED NATIONS

Commission on the Status of Women

CSW59/ Beijing + 20 is tentatively scheduled for 9 – 20 March 2015 and will as usual take place at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Commission will review the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The review (Beijing+20) will also include the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action, which highlighted further actions and initiatives.

Preparation will take place at national, regional and international levels

[See more](#)

More influence for NGOs at CSW

The UN Secretary General has published a report for the next session of CSW called *Ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women*. In this report he recommends that NGOs are given better opportunities for influencing the work of the Commission.

Lyda Verstegen has analysed the report.

[Read more on the IAW website:](#)

CEDAW statement

CEDAW

Hélène Sackstein, Geneva, calls attention to this strong statement by the CEDAW Committee:

“The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its recently concluded session, (Feb 2014) issued a statement on sexual and reproductive health and rights, which is its contribution to the ICPD@20 review process. The Committee reminds us that it *“has observed that failure of a State party to provide services and the criminalisation of some services that only women require is a violation of women's reproductive rights and constitutes discrimination against them.”* It States that *“the provision of, inter alia, safe abortion and post abortion care; maternity care; timely diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), breast and reproductive cancers, and infertility; as well as access to accurate and comprehensive information about sexuality and reproduction, are all part of the right to sexual and reproductive health”* and that *“every State can and should do more to ensure the full respect, protection and fulfilment of sexual and reproductive rights, in line with human rights obligations.”* “

[Read the whole statement](#)

New guidance note on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence aims to provide policy and operational guidance

New guidance note on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence launched

On the 11th of June 2014 at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict being held in London, U.K., UN Women launched along with OHCHR the UN Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

The Note aims to provide policy and operational guidance for United Nations engagement in the area of reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. It is a blueprint for promoting gender-sensitive approaches to the design and delivery of reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. It is intended to complement other relevant UN tools and Guidance Notes

[Link to the guidance note:](#)

First World Day against Trafficking in Persons took place on the 30th of July 2014

In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States also

New global awards for outstanding work in technology for gender

Landmark resolution on the situation of women and children in armed conflict

adopted resolution A/RES/68/192 and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”

Gender Equality Mainstreaming - Technology (GEM-TECH) Award

ITU (International Telecommunications Union) and UN Women announce new global awards for outstanding work in technology for gender equality. This is an annual special achievement award for outstanding performers and role models in Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in the area of ICTs. The award is applied to both women and men.

Online nominations are open until 11.59 p.m. CEST on 5th of September 2014. Link: www.itu.int/gem-tech-awards

AROUND THE WORLD

Africa

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, meeting at its 55th Ordinary Session held in Luanda, Republic of Angola, from 28 April to 12 May 2014 has agreed upon a landmark resolution on the Situation of Women and Children in Armed Conflict.

The Commission acted under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocol on Human and People's Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol).

The Commission recalled the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on Women, Peace and Security.

The Commission expressed its deep concern over the multiple forms of human rights violations taking place in the context of armed conflict on the continent, in particular sexual and gender-based violence such as rape, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilations of women and children, mostly used as a tactic of war;

The Commission is concerned that crimes of sexual violence are often defined as “crimes against morality or honour”, rather than against the victim’s bodily integrity and that perpetrators may

receive more lenient penalties if they are perceived to act to protect “honour”, and sometimes go unpunished;

The Commission deplored the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence and remained concerned that laws aimed at protecting women and children from violence are insufficient, discriminatory or non-existent and that legal definitions of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence are inadequate, especially in conflict situations;

The Commission therefore:

1. **Calls on** Member States to:

- **Condemn and prevent** violence against women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and ensure that survivors receive adequate support, affordable and accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health;
- **Adopt** legislative, administrative, social and other measures to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and children in conflict situations;
- **Conduct** independent and effective investigations into all crimes of sexual and gender-based violence, and prosecute and punish perpetrators to end impunity;
- **Provide** adequate training on investigating and prosecuting crimes of sexual and gender-based violence to personnel in the criminal justice system (police, forensic examiners, prosecutors, lawyers, judges);
- **Guarantee** the right to just and equitable reparation to victims in all forms (restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition) and address the consequences of violence against women and children in a comprehensive manner;
- **Ensure** the rehabilitation of victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and their involvement throughout the post-conflict peacebuilding and consolidation processes;
- **Ensure** implementation of the Commission’s Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Fair Trial and Legal Assistance in Africa;
- **Harmonize** abortion laws with the Maputo Protocol to include access to safe abortion in cases of rape, incest and sexual assault;
- **Ratify** and ensure the effective implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the Maputo Protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as other regional and

international human rights instruments that protect women's and children's rights.

1. **Decides to:**

- **Initiate** a study on the impact of armed conflicts on the rights of women and children in Africa;
- **Mandate** the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to conduct the study, the report of which will be submitted at the 57th Ordinary Session of the Commission; and
- **Request** the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to support the study.

[Full resolution text](#)

*Cameroon:
Skills for vulnerable*

Our member organization in Cameroon [CEFAP-LADIES CIRCLE](#) has put in place the "VULNERABLE WOMEN SKILL ACQUISITION CENTRE" for the social and economic empowerment of underprivileged, vulnerable and poor women in social difficulty living in Yaoundé and its neighborhoods.
[Learn more.](#)

Cameroon: Alarming levels of malnutrition among refugee children and women from C.A.R.

In Cameroon, up to 1 out of 3 refugee children from Central African Republic suffer from malnutrition, a recent United Nations assessment found.

[Read more](#)

*Nigeria:
Boko Haram still targets women*

Nigeria: Women Still Target of Boko Haram

More than two months after the removal of 223 schoolgirls April 14, 2014 at Chibok, fundamentalist jihadist sect Boko Haram continues attacks, the latest occurred on 1 July in Maiduguri killed more than 15 people, and continues to target women. FIDH calls on the Nigerian government and the international community to place the rights of women and human rights at the heart of the strategy to fight against Boko Haram and the fight against terrorism in the Sahel.

[Read more](#)

India:

Right to adequate food



South East Asia

India

FIAN (FoodFirst Information and Action Network) has submitted a report to the CEDAW Committee on the right to adequate food of women in India. The report outlines the main obstacles Indian women face when attempting to realize their right to adequate food.

[Report](#)

EVENTS

The GENEVA NGO FORUM will take place on 3-5 November 2014 in the Palais des Nations – Geneva, prior to the UN ECE9 regional review meeting of 6-7 November 2014.

The purpose of the Forum is to discuss the achievements, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and to include in the discussions the new challenges such as climate change, ICT for women, violence against women, increase in migration etc.

IAW has submitted 4 abstracts for the occasion :

- Women and decision making
- The effects of the financial crisis on women and gender equality
- Sexual and gender based violence as a political weapon in conflicts
- Gender responsive budgeting – knowledge production and implementation

President Joanna Manganara has been invited by the ECE NGO Forum in Geneva to speak at the round table on the BPof A area of concern: Women in the Economy.

[Read more](#)

Note

Please be so kind as to notify Membership Officer Pat Richardson, if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate societies with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter

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