

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities

Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter October 2014

no. 2

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Dear members and subscribers

In this newsletter we report on the IAW Board Meeting in Switzerland, which ended in the adoption of a political statement (more below)

We have important information about CSW 59 in New York and about the Post 2015 Development agenda.

We strongly recommend members and others to support the HeForShe campaign initiated by UN Women

And of course we have some news from around the world.

Deadline for your contributions to the next newsletter is December 1

IAW Board Meeting 2 – 6 October 2014



The board itook a break to enjoy the lovely weather

On the invitation of **Association Suisse pour les droits de la femme (ADF/SVF)** IAW held this year's board meeting in Si-on, Switzerland. Everything was organized beautifully. The venue was comfortable, practical, had good office facilities and served us excellent food.

So our sincere thanks go to Martine Gagnebin, Dominique Benmuvhar, and Jessika Kehl-Lauff (organizing committee), as well to Simone Chapuis-Bischof, Hildegard Kehl and all active members of the ADF Vaud for taking such good care of us. The presidency of ADF-SVF Switzerland, represented by Ursula Nakamura, Annemarie Heiniger and Valérie Bolliger joined the Saturday "swiss evening" together with Christiane Layaz, the responsible bookkeeper of the National Collector of IAW-AIF in Switzerland.

Platforms of communication

The board agreed that our journal – International Women's News – needs modernizing in design as well as content, so the President will ask a consultant to make a proposal for the future content of IWN and to produce one issue. On the basis of that, IAW will decide the next step. The board also supported the basic ideas of the

International Meeting 2015

Kuwait

*Participatory monitoring
Accountability mechanisms*



Arina Angerman

new website, facebook and twitter accounts and decided that the further development of these social media was to be pursued.

IAW needs the help of our members

Members are asked to take part in the development of our social media by following IAW, “liking”, “sharing”, “tweeting and re-tweeting” etc. There are bound to be members in our organizations who are experienced in the use of these social media and who can therefore help make the work of IAW known.

International Meeting 2015

Shaika Al-Mezen, representative of Union of Kuwaiti Women’s Association, kindly repeated her invitation to have the International Meeting in Kuwait in 2015. The invitation was accepted with thanks, and the dates for the meeting will soon be published, but probably at the end of October.

It will be interesting for IAW to meet women, not only from Kuwait, but from the whole Gulf region.

Training Session on Universal Periodic Review

Emma Burgisser, WILPF held a very interesting training session for the board on how members of IAW can use the human rights tool UPR to promote women’s human rights in their countries. [Click to learn more](#) and not least consult [UPR-info](#), a Geneva based NGO, which works to promote and strengthen the UPR process. UPR-info has all relevant documents and keeps a database of all recommendations by country.

Political Statement

At the end of the meeting, [a political statement](#) was adopted putting emphasis on the importance of introducing participatory monitoring and effective accountability mechanisms to progress towards the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

IAW at the European Women’s Lobby

At the recent general Assembly of the EWL, Arina Angerman, the Netherlands, was elected IAW representative to the Policy Committee of EWL with Marion Böker as alternate.

Congratulations to Arina and to IAW.

IAW at United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UN ECE):

IAW recommendations for the UN ECE NGO Forum (Beijing + 20 Review) to be held in Geneva Nov. 3—5 include

- Putting in place accountability mechanisms

- Collecting systematic gender analyses of the impact of the financial crisis
- Combatting all forms of violence against women
- Ensuring access to family planning
- Including women in decision-making on climate change
- Implementing UNSCR 1325

[Read more](#) about IAW's recommendations

IAW at FAO

Hunger and Poverty

Bettina Corke, IAW representative to FAO, has sent the following message:

IAW at FAO supports this historic moment of solidarity and sense of purpose as reflected in this [Press Release agreed upon by NGOs](#) from all over the world on the urgent need to find alternative ways to solve the question of hunger and poverty. This analysis has been carried out in anticipation of the upcoming International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). 19–21 November 2014.

UNITED NATIONS

Commission on the Status of Women

New York, March 9—20 2015

The main focus of CSW 59 will be the [Beijing Platform for Action](#), the progress made towards realizing its goals. The session will also look at opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post 2015 development agenda

Written statements must be submitted before October 24.

Registration of NGO participants will begin in November. It is important to follow the information about the [registration process](#) given at the CSW website. Each organization is allowed a maximum of 20 delegates. Members of IAW who wish to attend CSW should notify Secretary General Mmabatho Ramagoshi at iawsec@womenalliance.org

Side events are the concern of the [NGO CSW/New York committee](#). There is no news about the registration of side events so far. Members who are planning to organize a side event, please, notify Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com.

CSW 59:

- * *Issue*
- *Written statements*
- *Registrations*
notify Secretary General
- *Side events*
- notify Lene Pind

IAW preparations for CSW 59

IAW is planning to have at least two side events, one on women in decision-making and one on implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 and CEDAW Recommendation 30

Our written statement calls for of “a framework of participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms to evaluate commitments of duty bearers “. It will soon be published on our [website](#)

UN WOMEN

HeForShe campaign

On the 20th of September 2014 GoodWill Ambassador Emma Watson gave a speech at a special event in New York launching the HeForShe campaign – a dynamic solidarity movement for gender equality. If you haven't taken the [HeForShe pledge](#) yet, make your commitment today and take a stand for gender equality.

The aim of the campaign is to get men involved and committed to the cause.

If you haven't seen or heard Emma Watson's speech yet, [this link will take you to the speech](#):



Post 2015 Development Agenda

Post 2015 Development Agenda

Important links:

[2015 Post](#)

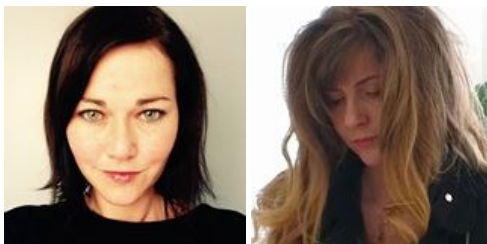
[UN Women](#)

[The World We Want](#), which has a very useful [advocacy toolkit](#)

Ulla Tornemand — Irene Manteufel
Everyday Sexism Project

IAW around the world

The Danish Women's Society has introduced the Everyday Sexism Project in Denmark. The project shows that women are being harassed by men in the streets, in bars, on buses, at school ect. Even in seemingly gender equal Denmark sexual harassment is widespread. Now the media have begun taking up the issue.

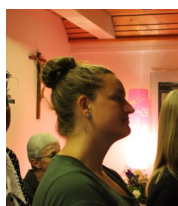


[Sexism on the agenda](#)

"If you sexist me, I will feminist you"

[Nordic Women's Economic Citizenship](#)

According to The World Economic Forum all of the Nordic countries are at the top of the list when it comes to women's participation in society. However, this position is somewhat different when it comes to the specific topic of economic participation and opportunity. Although Norway is right at the top you have to go all the way to 24 to find Denmark. Sweden and Finland are to be found in between. Through four seminars, one in each of the above mentioned countries, IAW member organisations will investigate women's economic participation in the Nordic countries. The seminars will take place between January and April 2015 and will cov-



Signe Vahlun

er topics regarding private and public challenges to economic citizenship in the Nordic countries.

Sent by Signe Vahlun, Denmark

Egypt

Horeya Megahed, IAW representative to the Arab League, was recently appointed coordinator of the chair of the ISESCO (the Islamic counterpart of the UNESCO), in Egypt

Around the world

Gudrun Haupter, convener of the IAW Health Commission, has sent the following:

Tunisia:

'Sister of the Revolution'

Ikram Ben Said, a former university teacher and a volunteer at a shelter for single mothers, helps Tunisian women find their voices. In an article in TIME, of 21 September 2014, with the heading "Sister of the Revolution", I read details about this remarkable woman.

After the collapse of the kleptocratic Ben Ali regime, political parties and civil society groups, once heavily restricted in this nation of more than 10 million, Ben Said founded Aswat Nissa, Women's Voices. The organization is dedicated to supporting the participation of women in the political process. In a very male-dominated political environment, Aswat Nissa works with all of the country's political parties, organizing efforts to mobilize women voters and running classes for female politicians regardless of their religious or political allegiances.

[This link](#) will take you to "[Next Generation's Leaders](#)". There you can watch a Video with Ikram Ben Said and read more about her.



Gender-based violence is one of the most important reasons why girls do not get an education

"Because I am a girl" was the first report now followed by "A girl's right to learn without fear".

A girl's right to learn without fear - report by Plan International

Worldwide, 66 million girls are missing out on an education. One of the major barriers they face is gender-based violence – sexual, physical and psychological. Up to 1.5 billion children experience violence every year, many within school walls. Girls are especially vulnerable to rape, exploitation, coercion and discrimination by students and teachers. This report explains the issues and presents solutions drawn from existing policy examples, global campaigns and the voices of girls themselves.

[Direct Link to Full 64-Page 2013 Report:](#)

Nobel Peace Prize for Malala

Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi won this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Malala is now the youngest winner of this prize ever.

UN Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka made this statement:

Malala's staunch and fearless advocacy has amplified the voices of girls who might otherwise remain unheard. She knows that a full education is essential for girls to flourish and participate as equals in life. More than that, as they grow to their full potential in society, their voices, participation and leadership are crucial elements in economic prosperity, inclusive societies, and sustainable peace and security. Empowered girls like Malala are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation in conflict, and the best buffer against the radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence." [Read her full statement](#)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Brazil:

Online tool on how to tackle violence against women and girls

Online tool on how to tackle violence for women and girls in Brazil

In Brazil, sexual violence is a problem. UN-Habitat studies show that women in urban areas are twice as likely as men to suffer from violence, especially in developing countries.

In 10 favelas of Rio de Janeiro women and girls are accessing information about services of a network for tackling violence (psychological, economic, physical or sexual) by using cell phones and internet cafes.

"The objective is for the tool to be used by women and girls. Even if they are familiar with the Maria da Penha Law, which is the Brazilian law against gender-based violence, they don't know exactly where to go to get help, which service to request or where to get more information about their rights," explains Rebecca Tavares, UN Women Representative in Brazil.

The tool details steps to take after being raped, along with geographical positioning systems so users can locate the closest women's centre, police station, medical centre and public prosecutor's office. The tool also provides abuse hotline numbers, information about rights, as well as the responsibilities and locations of Specialized Women's Attention Centres, which provide psychological, social and even legal support.

At the same time, young women leaders in various marginalized communities are being trained by the NGO Cedaps to teach their peers about the website/app, and how to identify and address gender-based violence.

[More information](#)

Violence against women in the EU

A recent [report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#) presents results from the world's biggest-ever sur-



vey on violence against women, revealing the extent of abuse suffered by women at home, work, in public and online. As well as demonstrating the wide prevalence of violence against adult women, the report also details incidents of physical and sexual violence experienced by women in childhood.

Drawing on the survey responses, some of the key findings show that:

- 33% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. That corresponds to 62 million women.
- 22% have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner.
- 5% of all women have been raped. Almost one in 10 women who have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner, indicate that more than one perpetrator was involved in the most serious incident.
- 43% have experienced some form of psychological violence by either a current or a previous partner, such as public humiliation; forbidding a woman to leave the house or locking her up; forcing her to watch pornography; and threats of violence.
- 33% have childhood experiences of physical or sexual violence at the hands of an adult.
- 12% had childhood experiences of sexual violence, of which half were from men they did not know. These forms of abuse typically involve an adult exposing their genitals or touching the child's genitals or breasts.
- 18% of women have experienced stalking since the age of 15 and 5% in the 12 months prior to the interview. This corresponds to 9 million women. 21% of women who have experienced stalking said that it lasted for over 2 years.
- 11% of women have experienced inappropriate advances on social websites or have been subjected to sexually explicit emails or text (SMS) messages. 20% of young women (18-29) have been victims of such cyberharassment.
- 55% of women have experienced some form of sexual harassment. 32% of all victims of sexual harassment said the perpetrator was a boss, colleague or customer.

67% did not report the most serious incident of partner violence to the police or any other organisation.

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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