

## **Attachment 7d**

### **Human Rights for Action Program 2018-2020**

Human Rights are the core business of IAW, especially the human rights of women and girls.

Mention of human rights can already be found in the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights, in the two covenants, ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both 1966), and in the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women 1979),

Important also are the Treaties on the Rights of the Child, on the Rights of Migrants, the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention for the protection of the Rights of People with Disabilities.

In 1993 the Vienna Declaration stated that women's rights are human rights.

IAW and its members will work for the ratification of these treaties in their countries and the lifting of reservations, if any.

IAW and its members will help the work of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures by contributing to NGO shadow reports whenever their countries come up for review.

Generally that is once every four years. They will also, if necessary, contribute to the reports of the Universal Periodic Review cycle.

In 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) were adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Women all over the world have worked very hard to get a stand-alone goal for the empowerment and the equality of women. The Human Rights Treaties and the SDG's must mutually reinforce each other. Next to the women's equality and empowerment goal 5, most of the 17 SDG's are also about the human rights of women.

Substantive equality of women and men can only be achieved when 'gender' is taken in account, the inequality as a result of unequal power structures in communities and specific expectations according to which women and men have their own role in the family and society, and that men are worth more than women.

The Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures do that implicitly, and not completely.

The CEDAW plea to eliminate discrimination should be understood as a means to bring women up to the level of men, disadvantage should be redressed.

Stigma, prejudice, stereotyping and violence should be addressed.

If we do not only want accommodation but also insist on transformation, existing structures must be reformed.

And finally women should have a voice and the ability to act as agents of change.