About Congress 2020

As announced Congress will be virtual and will take place within the following 3 days:

24 - 26 November 2020

Information about Congress will primarily be given in the Congress Bulletins. Congress 20 Bulletin nos 1,2 and 3 have already been sent to all members of IAW. If you have mislaid them, they are available on the IAW website www.womenalliance.org under Members Login, where you will find more information about Congress, incl. all relevant documents for nomination of candidates etc. If you have forgotten the password, contact Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com.

Registration for Congress

To register for Congress go to www.womenalliance.org and click on the banner at the top of the page "Register for the 38th Congress of IAW. Please note that when you register and pay your registration fee of 50 €, there is the possibility of adding a donation. You may add your donation to one or more of the following projects:

- a general donation towards simultaneous translation during Congress
  - Project 21.1
  - Water and Pads project

Please note: If you do not get a receipt in your inbox, check your spam filter. It is probably there.
Dear Members, Chères membres

You have already been informed by our President and three Congress 2020 Bulletins from our Communications Unit that the XXXVIIIth IAW World Congress will definitely be the first global one in our history, taking place in cyberspace. A taskforce has already started preparations, including the planning of the first virtual elections. In addition – and as requested by our Constitution – a Resolutions Committee has been appointed. The Committee consists of Danielle Levy at levy.dan93@orange.fr, Manju Kak at manjukak@gmail.com, Miranda Ruzario at assist.secgen@womenalliance.org and myself at rosy.weiss@gmx.at serving as convener. This is a preliminary appointment and must be confirmed by the Pre-Congress Board Meeting on September 5. You are cordially invited to send your proposals for resolutions to one of the committee members until end of September 2020. She will get in touch with you in order to finalize the wording, thus making sure that your ideas are being properly presented to Congress.

Stay healthy.
Rosy Weiss

Chères membres
Vous avez déjà été informées par notre Présidente et les deux Bulletins « Congrès2020 » que le XXXVIIth Congrès mondial de l’Alliance sera organisé virtuellement, pour devenir ainsi le premier congrès vraiment mondial de l’Alliance.
Un groupe de travail a déjà commencé les préparatifs, y compris l’organisation de nos premières élections virtuelles. Conformément à notre Constitution, un comité responsable de la préparation des résolutions a été établi. Voici ses
et moi-même <rosy.weiss@gmx.at>, coordinatrice.
Nous vous invitons à envoyer vos idées ou propositions de résolutions à l' une des membres du comité jusqu'à la fin du mois de Septembre 2020. Elle se mettra en contact avec vous pour finaliser la rédaction et garantir que votre proposition soit présentée au Congrès conformément à vos intentions.
Restez en bonne santé.
Rosy Weiss

It's Up to Us

Soon-Young Yoon, UN rep for the IAW, participated in the Women’s Learning Partnership project “It’s Up to Us” along with former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, Abena Musia, Ghanian ambassador to Brazil, and Mahnaz Afkhami, founder and president of WLP. Soon-Young Yoon said that there is no personal security without global security, reminding us of how we are interconnected in a global security system. With the COVID-19 pandemic, this is more true than ever.
INITIATIVES DURING PANDEMIC COVID-19 IN PAKISTAN
ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (APWA)

As the country remains under a lockdown to battle a daunting coronavirus outbreak, local charities are playing a role to stem the economic burden on the low-income groups providing them with rations.
A grinding economic slowdown, a direct result of the global COVID-19 outbreak, has particularly hit nearly 25% of the country's over 200 million population, which lives below the poverty line.
All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), the premier NGO of Pakistan, is distributing rations, enough for 30 days, among the families of daily wagers in the low-income areas, to assist the community to fulfil their necessities. APWA, which also runs a countrywide chain of charity education and health centres, affiliated hospitals, is providing basic health facilities and creating awareness for health and hygiene among the mothers of the community.

"Laborers and daily wages workers are the worst hit, whose livelihood has been badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Their immediate worry is [about] food, which we are trying to provide them." This is a significant perspective of APWA's President and Executives.

Helping the poor under lockdown

"The advantage APWA has, being a premier organization, is that we have been involved in relief activities for decades. We know where and when rations need to be distributed, Insha Allah [God willing], no one will die of hunger in Pakistan due to lockdown. This motivational perspective of APWA's leaders boosts the charity spirit among our volunteers and employees to serve the nation in this crucial time of need."

APWA, a women's organization founded by the internationally-acclaimed social worker, Begum Ra'ana Liquata Ali Khan, is importing surgical masks from China, which will be provided to health workers at the APWA health centres and affiliated hospitals in Karachi's remote areas, in addition to distributing rations among needy families.

Another countrywide task is to collect information about the families with unemployed bread earners due to COVID-19 pandemic. APWA is doing this job through its volunteers, project directors, teachers, principals and other field workers working day and night to verify the information so that rations could be distributed among the deserving families.

Nevertheless, in this time where national, international and other multi-national companies are planning for down-sizing their staff, APWA is motivating its staff members with the provision of their monthly salary on time at their door step to protect them from being exposed to the virus. Moreover, during this pandemic APWA is also considering the need to update the knowledge of its Education Sector staff through assisting them free of cost online authentic resources for teachers training courses; additionally, supporting teachers to enhance their English language skill with the provision of words online to increase their vocabulary that will play a significant role in learning English language.

Calls for the early distribution of zakat

APWA has a tradition of receiving an aggregate amount of Zakat every year from regular donors and other reputable persons. Every Ramadhan this amount is distributed among needy families, provision of sewing machines to the poor and widows to earn their livelihood, assistance to young women for their higher
In a nutshell, it could be said that in this current situation of pandemic even a small pinch of charity would count as a huge contribution; therefore, APWA has reached out to serve around 3000 families all over the country and specifically 1000 families in Karachi through distributing rations. The same information is also being uploaded on the Sindh Relief Initiatives online data portal, set by the Government of Pakistan i.e. http://bit.ly/sindrelienitiative. Additionally, helping the women employees of APWA through the provision of their salary with ration bags to assist them in the time of need. The success of APWA’s mission to serve needy families, especially women, in this pandemic rests on the shoulders of its individual donors and donations from its overseas affiliates. Thus APWA, through these efforts and initiatives, is assisting the government initiatives for supporting the citizens of Pakistan during this pandemic situation.
Covid Prevention Training For The Communities

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation / Rita Marque Mbatha

A Covid training was held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe with the support of ADF-SVF Suisse (Swiss) and DFR (German), both IAW Affiliate Organizations. The workshop was held on the 12th of June, 2020. The workshop because the country was under lockdown and people were not allowed to congregate. Prior to the workshop Women’s Comfort Corner Foundation tested the temperatures of all
grasped by the participants.

When the workshop started extreme priority was given to adults and teenagers who had underlying medical conditions some living with HIV AIDS, diabetes and lung disease. Prior to gaining entry into our premises every participant had their temperatures taken and masks provided by the Women’s Comfort Corner Foundation through the support availed by the Swiss and German IAW Affiliate Organisations.

Participants were instructed to be conversant of social distancing and be at least a metre apart. The participants appreciated and understood that respiratory droplets can unfortunately land on people close by and at worst be inhaled into the lungs of people with underlying medical conditions and could also affect a person without a medical condition.

It was also emphasised that when one has to buy medication or go out in public the use of mask was essential and the protection was reinforced by social distancing. The participants were grateful for the information that mask should not be placed on babies. What was also appreciated was that the face mask was not a substitute for social distancing.

During the meeting a fierce debate raged that people in private settings without access to mask are advised to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue and when coughing or sneezing to use the inside of their elbows. Everyone was against the throwing of the used tissue in the trash as the corona may escape from the said tissue. In the end it was decided that the best alternative would be to flush the tissue in the bathroom.

When assisting a sick person it is imperative for the caregiver to wear gloves in order to prevent infection although some alleged that this conduct would be viewed as discriminatory. After intense discussion all participants seemed to have understood that the facilitators were advocating for health and hygiene for the protection for everyone.

Although a necessity the use of disposable gloves in Africa when washing utensils is viewed as a luxury. The best advice given to the participants was to wash plates and pots using hot water. There were also demonstrations on how to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects like phones, keyboards, toilets and doorknobs. The two disabled attendees were very grateful to Women’s Comfort Corner Foundation for the demonstration as they left the workshop with their wheelchairs sparkling clean and they promised to share the knowledge attained with other disabled people.

All the attendees particularly those underlying illnesses were also encouraged to buy household items which could at least last a month and essential medication.
Le Covid 19 : un miroir pour refléter risques et challenges actuels

Par Renée Gérard
Membre du team AIF UNESCO
Membre du team AIF COE

Le choc d’une pandémie mortelle et le confinement qui a suivi nous ont recentré sur ce qui est important, sur nos valeurs mais aussi sur la façon dont nous devons les défendre dans ce monde consumériste.


L’économie sera gravement mise en danger mais bien d’autres choses le seront. Il m’a semblé que le COVID 19, un phénomène de la nature, nous rappelait brutalement que l’espèce humaine est comme les autres une des espèces vivantes de la planète gravement menacée par le virus. Le Covid nous tend un miroir dans lequel se reflètent les risques bien réels qui nous menacent en dépit de nos progrès technologiques, de notre arrogance, de nos sociétés avides de profit : ce sont les premières réflexions que je voudrais partager à partir de mon expérience française en cette période.

Tout d’abord le Covid 19 a démystifié la mondialisation. Faisant fi des frontières, des visas, des instruments humains et technologiques de détection et de répression, il s’est répandu rapidement et subrepticement. Il circule librement entre pays et même à l’intérieur des pays, il se crée des clusters de contamination,
une menace de nouvelle épidémie. La mondialisation censée nous apporter tant de bienfaits peut aussi nous apporter très rapidement des catastrophes dévastatrices. Elles sont à l’œuvre et les États, les gouvernements désarçonnés ont cherché des réponses. Aucune formule magique. La Chine à l’origine du départ de la pandémie a réagi très vite avec des mesures énergiques, recherches thérapeutiques, équipements de protection. D’autres pays ont eu moins de moyens et de grandes difficultés : inégalité de la mondialisation.
Concernant la lutte contre la maladie, le COVID19 a démystifié les stratégies de combat et le niveau d’organisation. En France les citoyens ont été stupéfaits de l’impréparation des services de santé, du manque de coordination et des explications contradictoires qui ont été données pour les justifier. Le nombre de personnes décédées dépasse les 30 000 et le parlement organise des auditions des responsables dont les ministres de la santé qui se sont succédé. Les pouvoirs locaux se sont montrés efficaces et le personnel de santé a été admirable mais les soignants ont payé un lourd tribut à la maladie car de nombreux médecins, infirmiers, brancardiers, aides-soignants sont décédés et ceci en dépit de mauvaises conditions de travail qu’ils dénonçaient depuis des mois en manifestant dans la rue.
Démystifiée aussi l’approche des gouvernants et décideurs dans une période de crise ou le Covid a fait apparaître que des conceptions différentes de la médecine de crise s’affrontaient, l’une orientée vers l’urgence thérapeutique afin de soigner et sauver le plus grand nombre de vies que possible, l’autre une médecine dogmatique préconisant la recherche de solutions pérennes méthodiquement/scientifiquement validées comme si une distance devait être gardée par rapport à l’urgence.
Enfin plus grave encore le COVID montre que le système économique néo libéral semble attacher plus de valeur à la poursuite de l’économie qu’à la pandémie voire même que des profits substantiels peuvent être réalisés à l’occasion de cette pandémie. Outre le black market des petits profits face au manque d’approvisionnement en masques et tests, une campagne stupéfiantes semble avoir été lancée par les grands laboratoires pharmaceutiques internationaux cherchant à imposer des médicaments nouveaux plus couteux (donc très rentables pour eux) en discréditant systématiquement des thérapies peu couteuses qui ont fait leurs preuves dans la prévention de la charge virale. Nous avons été scandalisés de constater qu’à l’occasion du COVID, un journal médical prestigieux comme le LANCET a publié une étude soi-disant Big Data dans plusieurs pays du monde dénonçant l’hydro xichloroquine comme très dangereuse. La mobilisation de chercheurs du monde entier a dénoncé son manque de rigueur concernant les données et la manière dont elles ont été recueillies ; ils ont dénoncé les conclusions errorées provoquant la démission des médecins qui la cautionnaient et le retrait de cette enquête par le Lancet. Sans la vigilance de véritables chercheurs médicaux une campagne mondiale de désinformation était lancée abondamment relayée par les médias, tous les
Quant à la question des Droits des Femmes il semble que les déclarations pour la survie de l'économie soit en mesure de reléguer certains de ces droits dans les politiques dites féministes. Actuellement en France à l'occasion du remaniement ministériel la nouvelle ministre choisie pour l'égalité homme-femme est censée représenter la diversité (elle est franco-capverdienne). C'est une femme entrepreneure distinguée, sa compétence en matière d'économie étant décise pour ce choix versus d'autres priorités défendues par la CEDAW et les féministes. Enfin le dernier reflet dans ce miroir que nous tend le COVID 19 est la démystification de la faible considération pour la planète et son écologie. En Antarctique la banquise est en train de fondre, le permafrost est en train de fondre. Il libérera des éléments susceptibles d'être dangereux et parmi eux des virus nouveaux. COVID 19 est peut-être le précurseur d'autres pandémies. Je ne voudrais pas être un prophète de malheur mais il y a quelques années j'ai lu un livre remarquable de Jared Diamond : Effondrement : Comment les sociétés décident de leur disparition ou de leur survie (Collapse : How societies choose to fail or succeed).

Plus récemment après avoir vu, au Louvre, une exposition sur les Royaumes oubliés, ceux qui au Moyen Orient et dans la galaxie Miocène, tous avec de brillantes civilisations ont subitement disparu à la fin de l'Age du Bronze, j'ai trouvé et lu passionnément sur ce sujet le livre d'un archéologue américain Eric H. Kline : 1177 avant Jésus Christ : Le jour où la civilisation s'est effondrée (1177 BC : The year Civilization collapsed).

Pendant le confinement réfléchissant à la disparition de ces civilisations déstabilisées par des phénomènes naturels (seismes, des epidémies, des invasions ....) ces faits m'ont interpelés ; L'histoire parfois se répète. Le miroir que nous tend le COVID n'est-il pas un avertissement ? Ceci est arrivé dans le passé, surveillons l'avenir.

L'AIF doit nous aider à regarder l'avenir et toutes nous devons l'aider aussi à regarder l'avenir de la Planète et l'avenir de l'AIF.

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Fund Healthcare not Warfare
The Covid-19 pandemic has drawn attention to many things that need to be changed drastically if the virus is to be conquered and the wellbeing of all is made a just and humane goal. Among many other aspects the role of money has become more obvious than ever, money that is needed for hospitals, sanitary equipment, research, substitute of incomes that have collapsed because of the lockdown or because of illness, money that is needed to support big, middle-sized and small enterprises -the smaller the more vulnerable.

Where could the money come from if governments do not want to take huge loans only? Well, there is a lot of money that could be re-directed from funding of warfare to funding of welfare and healthcare. Within the international peace community, there is an outcry coming from many individuals and organizations worldwide saying “We need vaccines, not marines, we need hospitals, not tanks!”

The amount of money that is spent on healthcare on the one hand and on warfare and military equipment and infrastructure on the other hand differs from country to country but everywhere the sum that is spent on health is shamefully much, much lower than the huge amount of money spent on the military, in many cases billions and trillions of it. (The most costly warfare items these days are nuclear weapons plus suitable aircraft and their modernization, drone war and Mr Trump’s space force.) You can find out about the military expenditures of your country with the help of the Swedish peace research institute SIPRI or other sources. So let’s demand strongly and repeatedly that our financial resources are not wasted on stuff that is horridly destructive or that becomes rusty after a certain time but are spent to help humankind to survive and support every single human being: leave no one behind!

Moreover, the UN General-Secretary’s urgent appeal for a global ceasefire during these times of the global crisis needs more advocacy than ever.
I suggest that we come up with a resolution at our IAW congress 2020 concerning these issues. Please contact me if you want to become part of the drafting team.

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**Feminist power counts!**

By Board Member of European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman

European Women's Lobby shared their new publication on Sexual Education (SE) with Board Members in an online meeting at 10.7. As you know one of the feminist principles of SE is to know about the power of a Clit.

You can read an article at this page 'EWL's Feminist Sexuality Education' and download the report too. “In 2015 EWL undertook research into members’ views on sexuality education as a tool for violence prevention and ensuring we have the best possible freely-given consensual, desire-driven sexual experiences.”

European Women's Lobby shared their new publication on Sexual Education (SE) with Board Members in an online meeting on July 10. As you know one of the feminist principles of SE is to know about the power of a Clit.

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Legislative quotas brings positive change in politics

As IAW members know "political assemblies and executives too often fail to reflect the gender diversity of the population they represent, with women significantly under-represented in many cases" EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) published 14.7 a new statistical brief about gender balance in politics. “Currently, just over half (15) of the Member States have a gender-balanced representation (i.e. at least 40% of each gender amongst their MEPs); Cyprus is the only Member State to have no women MEPs at all.”

France (50%), Belgium (50%), Spain (40%) and Greece (33%) have legislative candidate quotas! “Whilst legislative quotas do not guarantee progress, there is clear evidence of a generally positive impact.”

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https://mailchi.mp/de328b4aa36f/iaw-newsletter-july-2020-no-4?e=[UNIQID]
For your information: EWL virtual General Assembly will be at 08.09.2020 for all Delegates and Observers. Arina Angerman will represent IAW as a delegate and Marion Boeker will be participating as an observer.

Marion and I were very busy in June / July 2020 filling in the survey as part of an appreciative Inquiry in order to develop the next EWL Strategic Framework. Thank you to all IAW members who supported us by filling in a survey!

Parental leave in the Netherlands
By Lyda Verstegen

Up to now a partner of a woman who gave birth was entitled to one working week of paid leave.
From July 1 the partner (husband, registered partner, same sex partner) who is employed can take 5 weeks leave.
The pay is 70% of the daily pay. They have to take the leave within 6 months after they have taken the first week of the normal leave.
They can take it as a block or otherwise. The employer informs the paying authority of all the choices of their employé.
The employer can of course pay the full amount, if that is foreseen in the Collective Labour Contract.

The idea is that the partner bonds with the baby and develops a routine to be involved in child rearing. That way, the woman won’t cut her working time, which is what happens now.

The Global Food Crises
Jessica Kehl-Lauff, IAW representative to FAO has sen this:


Food insecurity refers to the lack of secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal human growth and development and an active and healthy life. For people to be food secure, food must be both consistently available and accessible in sufficient quantities and diversity and households must be able to utilize (store, cook, prepare and share) the food in a way that
The 2020 edition of The Global Report on Food Crises describes the scale of acute hunger in the world. It provides an analysis of the drivers that are contributing to food crises across the globe, and examines how the COVID-19 pandemic might contribute to their perpetuation or deterioration. The report is produced by the Global Network against Food Crises, an international alliance working to address the root causes of extreme hunger.

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**Hope Reframed by Women’s Rights Organizations**

Cheryl Hayles, VP North America

Oppression craves power and therefore women of all races have been victims of systems designed to dominate. When Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States of America, there was hope that America had entered a post racial feminist era. Day one after President Obama’s second term concluded, the opposing political machine went into high gear to erase the significant work he had done in saving Main St., advancing human rights, addressing climate change and dealing with terrorism. His leadership in valuing people, seeking solutions and conducting himself with dignity created a new narrative. While this article is not about American politics, it must be noted that hope increased globally because there was an intelligent, hard-working President in the Oval office. He never once went to hide in a bunker from...
Turn the page to three years later; the world is suffering from a pandemic, the gasket on anti-Black racism has blown up Social Media and the world is saying enough is enough.

When President Obama was elected, we experienced a global smile. Children, youth, adults of different ethnic groups danced and cheered. A light had broken through the dismal and depressing reality of an oppressed people. Humanity in general recognized the audacity of hope. One may even say the Obamas’ residence in the White House embodied the Martin Luther King Jr. “dream”. Simultaneously a nightmare continued to unfold in the streets. Black women and men were disproportionally policed with impunity. This issue captured everyone’s attention on May 25, 2020 when George Floyd’s story travelled around the globe. Instinctively, it is impossible to watch cruelty and not be affected. People groaned in mourning and went into empathetic rage.

Black people around the world have been experiencing systemic racisms for centuries but as long as it was the Black persons’ problem society chose to ignore it. Unchallenged systems continued with racist leaders empowered to promote and maintain white supremacy. This frame of a knee on a Black man’s neck, snuffing out his life, brought up trauma for silent Black victims (women and men) around the world. People erupted into protest. I applaud the Americans for calling out injustice. In countries such as Canada with smaller Black populations, people hold to the notion that there is no anti-Black racism because the traumatized are marginalized and voiceless.

Prior to George Floyd’s tragedy, there had been many executions of Black women by police with no global protest. The establishment has no incentive to examine its beliefs toward the disenfranchised. Therefore, anti-Black racism does not exist in the imagination of people who are safe and empowered. It is a problem only for the people who suffer as a result. Why did the world groan in unison at this hate crime? This time, people saw through the lens of a phone camera, lit by daylight, the trial and execution of a Black man on the tarmac.

The tarmac. A bye product of a precious resource. The symbolism of a Black man caught between a knee and a valued resource is overwhelming. This demonstrated the figurative “I can’t breathe” Black people have been saying regarding the lack of health care, economic opportunities, education, fair judicial process, and access to the freedoms outlined in the constitutions of the countries they built for free. In the middle of a global pandemic and lockdown, “I can’t breathe” struck a nerve. Sensitivities to personal freedoms were already triggered by COVID-19. A wound was already opened and this indignity added salt.

The platitudes from organizations acknowledging anti-Black racism are insulting if they do nothing to shift the balance of power in their sphere of influence. Silence is louder and more dangerous than empty words.
Debated as it may be, I do believe President Obama ushered in a post-racial feminist awareness. Black activists since the time of reconstruction (late 1863-1877) in the United States have worked to claim a space for him to step into. Now, the allies who are protesting with Black people are staying true to the post-racial dream. Women’s Rights Organizations must join the conversation as Black Lives include Black women.

George Floyd brought light to the colonial pandemic that has been killing Black people for centuries. While we do not have a vaccination for COVID-19 we do have a solution for anti-Black racism. It’s called “Do The Right Thing”. To implement change, we do not need another Town Hall or another study. The reports have already been written, the stories documented, the claims filed. Now that we have seen we cannot unsee. Our only option is to respond responsibly.

Women’s organizations have a significant role to play in creating this New Normal. The Corona Virus has taught us that if one member of the community is unhealthy, we are all at risk. The Black Lives Matters movement challenges everyone to declare a connection with the common humanity we are bound to. One cannot be sick and tired of injustice that is gender based without being sick and tired of injustice that is race based.

The world cannot survive two pandemics. While there is political will to find a vaccine for COVID-19 we must also insist on support for Black Lives. We have crossed the threshold of a revolution with the global protests, now the house must be put in order. In that house, there must be equally appointed rooms for Black Lives. As a Black woman I encourage human rights defenders, including women’s organizations, to make Justice happen for all or there will never be Peace. Black women, Indigenous women and White women have a common goal. It’s time we figured out how to genuinely work together.

Council of Europe
by IAW Representatives Heleen Jansen, Monique Bouchet, Renee Gerard, Anje Wiersinga.

Very good news on Equal Pay for Equal Work: on 29th June 2020 the European Committee of Social Rights which monitors the implementation of the Council of Europe Social Charter responded on the collective complaints lodged by the NGO University of Women and found violations in 14 out of the 15 countries involved. This is really a tremendous success. Since 2011 our INGO Working Equality Group at the Council of Europe has tried to lodge such a complaint without results until Anne Negre (also INGO Gender Equality Expert) did so as UWE Representative in 2017. While the ECSR found that all 15 countries
insufficient progress in reducing the gender pay gap, but in some cases also due to lack of pay transparency in the labour market, ineffective legal remedies and the insufficient powers and resources of national gender equality bodies. Moreover, despite quota arrangements and other measures, women also continue to be under-represented in decision-making positions within private companies. The ECSR noted that the gender pay gap had narrowed in some countries, but progress was insufficient.

It is now up to our affiliates and members at national level to make sure that International treaties and commitments on equal pay made since 1949 are implemented.

Joanna Manganara made a contribution to the INGO Conference Video entitled “INGO’s under lockdown get involved and prepare for the future”, whereas Heleen Jansen was involved with the video as treasurer of the INGO Services at the Council of Europe. The video can be seen at https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/june-2020

In view of the widespread increase of domestic violence during Covid-19, Anje Wiersinga is advocating to promote the knowledge and implementation of Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence by installing telephone lines for MEN to assist them to overcome their tendency to use violence to cope with their emotions. This article on Preventive intervention deals with required programmes to assist perpetrators to overcome emotions and stress by other methods than violence. We are also promoting the use of the Survival Kit for Men, developed by WWP EN (Work With Perpetrators of domestic violence). We have sent these proposals to the Council of Europe Organs and several parliamentarians and invites IAW members to do the same. https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu

Monique Bouchet attended the International Conference on Civil Participation and Anje Wiersinga attended the World NGO Day in Bruxelles organised by the INGO Conference on a similar issue. Both concluded that there is a dangerous backlash in spite of the Committee of Ministers Guidelines for civil participation in political decision making of 2017. Heleen Jansen participated in the INGO Conference web seminar on Strengthening Participative Democracy and Civil Society.

IAW Commission on Democracy
by Anje Wiersinga, convener.
In a meeting attended by Anje Wiersinga, the Swedish ambassador Ehnberg explained how his compliance to the rule of equal participation
Our IAW Commission is preparing a proposal for the IAW Congress to accelerate women’s equal participation in political decision making; using the Swedish model of Feminist Foreign Policy. After all Aletta Jacobs - one of the founders of IAW – stressed that voting rights are not a goal in itself. these should be used to participate in decision making particularly at the political level. New members of the Commission are welcome anjew@hetnet.nl

UN Women turns 10, placing women’s rights, priorities and voices centre-stage

Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020

UN Women is 10 years old today. On 2 July 2010, the General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution to merge four parts of the United Nations system into the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – known as UN Women. A decade on, as we celebrate this anniversary in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the human rights of women and girls have more prominence, universality and more urgency than ever before. Our founding allies - Member States, civil society and the women’s movements - are now joined by partnerships and relationships throughout society, across age groups, across the world.
Since 2010, UN Women’s staff, present in some 90 countries, have delivered programmes that have almost quadrupled in size, and that bring change to billions of those most in need.
Whether it’s girls learning coding, women farmers using new climate-resilient seed stock, small enterprise owners accessing large scale value chains, women candidates being trained to run successfully for office, discriminatory laws being abolished, women negotiators bringing essential constructive compromise to peace tables, or provision of psychosocial care for women
learning their human rights. Our work to support reform in discriminatory laws in 2019 alone has affected the lives of more than 1 billion women. Together, we have worked to place women’s rights, priorities and voices on critical global agendas, from the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio, to reflecting migrant women’s struggles in the Global Compact for Migration, to getting women front and centre in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is a standalone goal and underpins all 17 Goals. The annual UN Commission on the Status of Women, which shapes global norms and standards, has brought to the fore critical issues like ending violence against women. Now 155 countries have put in place laws that criminalize domestic violence that affects one in three women in their lifetimes. We thank all those who have made this journey with us; all those who went before in the women’s movements on whose shoulders we stand, and who were relentless in calling for gender equality to be given its rightful place and for UN Women to be created. We thank all those who support us with resources of all kinds, who work with us, walk with us, talk and tweet with us. At the tipping point of this decade, and as we look ahead to Generation Equality and a future of multiple challenges, we are confident that we do not do this alone. We know that to change the world will take the world. 

Stay tuned for activities to mark UN Women@10 in the year ahead!

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It is our pleasure to advise you that The SVRI Research Grant 2020 call for proposals is now open.

The grant is dedicated to funding innovative research that contributes to the prevention and response of violence against women (VAW), violence against children (VAC) and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality in low and middle-income countries.

Essential details on the grant value, duration and application process

Applicants can apply for grants between $40,000 to $200,000 for
time to research projects with clear, measurable outcomes.

All applications must be submitted by midnight (South African time) on 15 September 2020. Only applications submitted via the online system before the stated closing date and time will be considered.

Applications must be made via the ProposalCentral online system, and can be submitted in English, French and Spanish. All information needed for proposal submission is available in the English, French and Spanish versions of The SVRI Research Grant Guidelines.

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