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IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

Newsletter August/September 2020 no 5

Dear Readers,

Usually, the IAW Newsletter is published every two months, so the next issue was really due early October. However, the editors find that it is important that IAW members are notified of the

FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENT ACTION PLAN.

and the possibility of participating.

Also, we encourage members to engage in the discussion raised by Renée Gérard in the August Newsletter,

COVID 19 - A Mirror to Reflect Current Risks and Challenges

Read Rosy Weiss' response below and [on the website](#), where you may also leave your own comment.

Enjoy reading!



BEIJING +25

THE FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Look at the world through women's eyes

Soon-Young Yoon calls attention to this very important activity and asks members of IAW to send contributions

**“Women changed the UN—
and the UN helped women change the
world”**

We invite IAW members to contribute to a chapter of “Thank you United Nations” as we celebrate UN Women’s 10th anniversary. Your contributions to this chapter will bring attention to how real lives have been touched by UN

It is in the context of the UN's 75th anniversary that we celebrate the remarkable way in which the feminist and women's movements have helped shape the UN's vision and achievements.

From its very beginning, we--the feminist and women's movements--had a profound influence on the UN, contributing to the Commission on the Status of Women (1946), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Decade of Women (1975-1985), the four UN World Conferences on Women in Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). More progress was made resulting in Security Council Resolution SC#1325, the Generation Equality Forums, and special UN commemorations of UN75 and Beijing + 25.

UN Women's history is also our history. The creation of UN Women in 2010 was the result of the work of the Global Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign, a coalition of feminist and women's movement organizations. This campaign mobilized governments and civil society to create UN Women as an influential UN agency that could make the 'whole of the UN' work for women's human rights and gender equality, sustainable development, and peace.

Let us celebrate our collective achievements,

Co-sponsors:

Mary Luke, UNWomen/USA and Soon-Young Yoon, IAW and co-driver of the fwMAP

This is a moderated online book involving a committee of editors selected by fwMAP in collaboration with partners. Online submissions include videos posted on You-tube channel and photos, poems, and other creative works of art. Donors and supporters will have the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to support UN Women's work. No donations are accepted by fwMAP.

*Deadline for submissions is **August 30***

REGISTER HERE

<https://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/ThankyouUnitedNations/Content/UNWomen10>

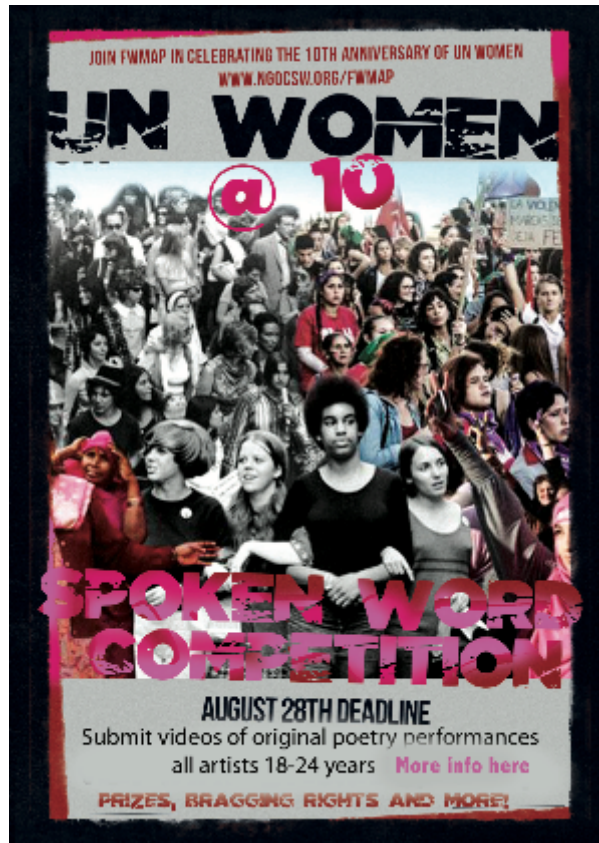
Calling all spoken word artists ages 18-34!

The Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan (fwMAP) joins our sisters worldwide in celebration of the 10th anniversary of UN Women in the midst of

Submit videos of you performing your original feminist poetry by 28 August.
We will publish winners in the “Thank You UN” online book.

Guest Judge Reg E. Gaines will make the final selections!

Read more about the rules, requirements, and prizes.



**Rosy Weiss responds to Renée Gérard's article in the IAW August Newsletter:
Covid 19 - A Mirror to Reflect Current Risks and Challenges**

My congratulations for this excellent contribution to our lives under the pandemic. With you, I very much welcome the topic chosen for our forthcoming Congress. Whoever made this choice had done well against the proposals voted in Geneva. We only can hope that there will be sufficient time during Congress to discuss this theme in the thoughtful manner it deserves. It is IAW's opportunity for us to look ahead and should become IAW's contribution to a feminist and green recovery after Covid-19.

Did the lockdown really made us concentrate on our values and priorities? Maybe in the private sphere. Didn't I read or listen to much national egoisms, a prioritizing of the "us" against the "others", the revival of the "homeland" ideology that an open European society, based on the four liberties/pillars (free movement of people, of goods, of capital, and establishment and provision of services) should have had overcome since long ago?

Hand in hand with this ideology women experienced a renewal of the housewife glorification. Young women may have experienced it for the first time under home-schooling and home-office conditions, but we elderly recalled it very well, from the situation of dependency of our mothers to the hypocritical films of the 1950s.

Applauding those women and men who kept essential services running during lockdown, may have been signs of general gratefulness. Why is then that now feminist have to claim investments in the care economy, thus reacting to cuts in public health structure, staffing, services; privatisations and stripping away worker's rights, instead of governments acting in consequence of their own appraisals? Did Covid-19 bring change in this neoliberal thinking? Not really, as you rightly point out, as it seems more interested in the pursuit of the economy looking into the "substantial profits" that can be achieved by the pandemic.

The few weeks since lifting lockdown have had curious consequences and only seem to support my pessimism as to the capacity of learning from experience of the majority of people. How can we explain the apparent thoughtless in which people restarted life, as if Corona would have disappeared together with lockdown. Personal responsibility? Consequences for a more sustainable life-style, demystification of globalization and our combat strategies? I wish I could believe in it.

One last point, dear Renée. And speaking as a grand-mother. What did the closing of schools and universities during lockdown do to our children? What consequences will our societies have to face from these serious cuts in personal mobility, in a youngster's life where social bonds, friendships, clubbing, get-together are being forbidden, or restricted? I wish somebody would tell me not to worry in this case and to have confidence in the ability of our youth to overcome.

Yours,
Rosy

remotely...

By Derya Akincy

It was in February 2020, we were all shocked with the COVID news. While being stuck in front of our TVs, we thought it will never ever come to the country we live in. We thought they would close the borders immediately. However, the disease spread very fast and we found ourselves in quarantine.

No social life, no restaurant, no seeing friends, what a life... Some of us got depressed, some of us got stuck in other countries without family and beloved ones... A new world order arrived: working remotely.

Was it easy? Eventually, but not always when you have lots of things to do... But this quarantine time has taught us to be grateful for every moment we had with our loved families and friends... We learned to share what we have and we learned that life is not always being social...

We had two NGO CSW Geneva meeting remotely which I enjoyed as we could participate in the meetings interactively and as we could be all together in an online platform. Even though I prefer and enjoy meeting at the UN, I believe these online meetings reunited all of us, and made all of us, all of the women stronger.

We've all got used to the new world order. How long will it last and what changes do we want for a better future world?

This comes with good wishes to you all.

CSW65 (2021)

The sixty-fifth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 March 2021.

Representatives of [Member States](#), UN entities, and [ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations \(NGOs\)](#) from all regions of the world are invited to attend the session.

Themes

- **Priority theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- **Review theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development ([agreed conclusions](#) of the sixtieth session)

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