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IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

IAW Newsletter October 2020 no. 6

New Log-In System on Website

For reasons of security and to protect members' data we introduce a new individual log-in system. This means that next time you wish to log in to the members' area, you will have to create your own password. Instructions are available on the log-in page.

Congress papers:

Members who register for Congress will have access to all Congress documents including information about candidates for President, Treasurer, Secretary General and the Board. Documents will be available there shortly after October 10, which is the deadline for nomination of candidates and for registering for Congress.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg - In Memoriam

by Alison Brown



Feminists across the United States and with them in sympathy, Feminists around the world, join in mourning the passing of a Titan of jurisprudence. Starting in the

and then as a judge, she changed the face of American anti-discrimination law. More than any other person, she can take credit for making the law of this country work for women." Associate Justice Elena Kagan 2014.

Now a period of trepidation is upon us as the Supreme Court, on which RBG so capably served, is turned majority conservative and "traditional" in the worst sense of the word. Achievements in human rights, such as affordable health care for all (taken for granted in many countries around the world) and a woman's control over her reproductive life will be called into question, or even taken away. US feminists will be struggling to save women's lives in this period and they count on the solidarity of their sisters around the world.

Conference of INGOs, Council of Europe

by Heleen Jansen

In 2016, the Conference of INGOs proceeded to a revision of the existing Rules of Procedure. At that time, the revision consisted of changes made to several articles. During this process, it was found that successive additions to the document had had an impact on its structure and its continuity. Moreover, during the last few years, the Conference of INGOs has developed rapidly. Several old and new issues are not covered by the current Rules and this brings with it a risk of arbitrary choices being made.

In 2018, to remedy this and to continue to modernise the legal and operational framework of the Conference of INGOs ("the Conference"), the latter established, through the Standing Committee, a drafting group in charge of drawing up proposals regarding the Rules of Procedure or other statutory provisions of the Conference ("the Drafting Group").

Its mandate was to draft proposals for revision or amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference in order to strengthen:

- Good and ethical governance of the Conference and its bodies (fitness for purpose of its structures, election procedures, code of conduct) and
- Operational efficiency (resources, meetings/sessions, participatory working methods, decision-making processes, etc.).

In the framework of its reflection on the revisions that might be necessary, the Drafting Group considered it important to get some feedback on various aspects of the Rules of Procedure that it initially saw as needing attention.

We did send our comments to the Drafting group.

The next session of the Conference of NGOs will take place on 14 to 16 October 2020, and it will be an online meeting. During this session several important

Pandemic and Post-pandemic World, will be adopted.

Heleen Jansen

CSW 65 (2021)

To find information go to

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation>



65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women Updates

Announcing the first-ever VIRTUAL NGO CSW65 Forum!

What is the theme of CSW65?

- **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)

Find more information about the UN CSW65 on [UN Women's website](#).

Equality Fund

It's here! The Equality Fund's first global Call for Applications is now open to women's rights and feminist organizations from September 10th to October 5th, 2020. The Equality Fund welcomes applications for direct funding under its 'Catalyze' program from groups led by women, girls, and non-binary people at the

Fund's website to learn more, including eligibility requirements, and get started on the application process. Please share the news widely with your networks.

Il est arrivé! Le premier appel mondial à propositions du Fonds Égalité, destiné aux organisations féministes ou de défense des droits des femmes, est lancé. Du 10 septembre au 5 octobre 2020, dans le cadre de son programme « Catalyser », le Fonds Égalité acceptera des demandes de financement direct de la part d'organisations menées par des femmes, des filles ou des personnes non binaires qui sont à l'avant-garde du changement, luttent contre les violations des droits, traitent les impacts du COVID-19, exigent l'égalité des sexes et mobilisent des solutions féministes pour y arriver. Pour plus d'informations y compris les critères d'admissibilité et pour commencer le processus de demande, **rendez-vous sur le site Web du Fonds Égalité**. Partagez cette annonce avec vos réseaux SVP.



Violence against Women and Girls

by Arina Angerman

During an online EWLBoard Meeting inspired by the 'Black Lives Matter' Movement in July 2020 Esua Goldsmith, former President of Fawcett Society and an optimist, shared some readings from her brilliant memoir "[The Space Between Black and White](#)" which was published on International Women's Day 2020.

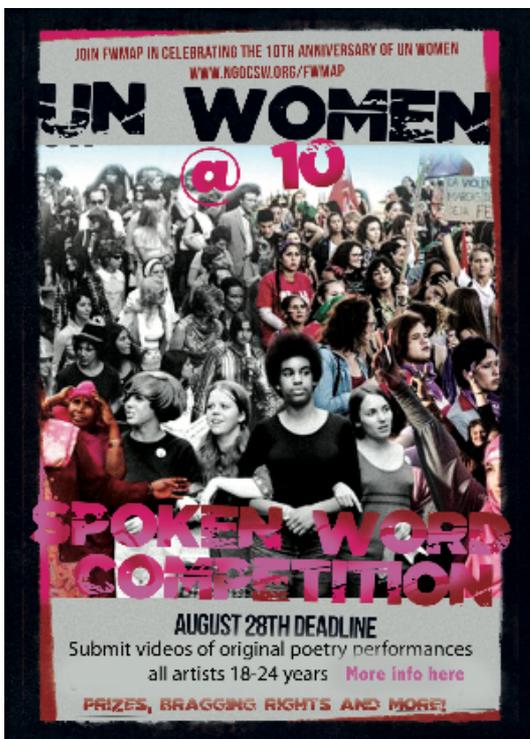
During the 1st **online General Assembly of EWL** in September more than 100 participants approved the minutes of GA 2019. During GA 2019 I talked about the work of the Women in Politics Working Group and concluded that "we are all

online violence to women politicians.

During EWL's GA 2020 IAW supported an Emergency Motion on the **Istanbul Convention** proposed by Network of the East-West Women from Poland. Quote *"There are ongoing and severe attacks on the Istanbul Convention ...Recently both in Poland and Turkey high level officials publicly shared their opinion to withdraw their countries from the Istanbul Convention and feminists have been campaigning on the streets and social media to create awareness and show their ownership and resistance on the effective and fully implementation of the Istanbul Convention."*

It is nice and very important to know EWL is very engaged in the **Beijing+25 process** and in the strategic leadership of the Action Coalition on Gender-based violence.

Until the next EWL elections during GA in 2021 I remain IAW's representative on the EWL Board with Marion Boeker as Alternate. We are working smoothly in a small IAW team together with Jocelyne Scutt, who represents IAW in EWL's Observatory on Violence Against Women.



UN WOMEN 10TH ANNIVERSARY

by President Joanna Manganara

A key moment in the 21th century women's rights movement is the 10th Anniversary of the UN Women's establishment, as the global champion for the empowerment of women and girls. UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting the needs of women worldwide by supporting UN member states, as they set global standards for achieving gender equality.

[Read more](#)



Istanbul Convention

- Turkey is planning to withdraw from the Convention

By Derya Akinci

Istanbul Convention and its content

August 1st marks the anniversary of the Istanbul Convention initially signed in 2011 and aiming to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. The Republic of Turkey signed the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women in 2011. The Convention is virtually a constitution for women. While it holds Turkey responsible to carry out many duties to prevent violence, at the same time it clearly underlines the fact that concepts such as custom, tradition, or honour cannot be considered as a justification for any act of violence.

The Istanbul Convention forbids the legal systems in signatory nations to decriminalize violence against women out of “prejudices, customs, traditions and other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men”. It also requires signatory nations to “ensure that culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called ‘honour’ shall not be considered as justification for any acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention” ([Istanbul Convention, Article 12](#)).

As of March 2019, it had been signed by 45 countries and the European Union (EU). On March 12, 2012, Turkey became the first country to ratify the Convention, followed by 33 other countries from 2013 to 2019 (Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy,

Sweden, Switzerland). The Convention came into force on August 1 2014. In 2018, Turkish artist Vahit Tuna installed 440 pairs of high heels on the façade of a building in Istanbul. The installation was a **memorial to 440 women** murdered by their partners or family members that year alone.

Women in Turkey have protested the government's plans to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, staging demonstrations and posting black-and-white photographs of themselves on social media.

On 5 August 2020, thousands of women took to the streets of several Turkish cities to protest against gender-based violence and demand the country remain a signatory to an international pact against such attacks

The rallies on that Wednesday were the biggest in recent weeks amid growing anger about the rising number of women killed by men in recent years and speculation that Turkey might withdraw from the 2011 Council of Europe accord, known as the Istanbul Convention.

In Istanbul, hundreds of women rallied in support of the accord, holding placards saying "Women will not forgive violence", "Apply the Istanbul Convention" and "Long live women's solidarity". In Izmir, police intervened to stop a women's rally, and dozens chose to start a sit-in protest, women's rights group Nar Women's Solidarity said on Twitter. The group said 10 women had been detained.

There were also protests in Ankara and in the southern cities of Adana and Antalya. According to We Will Stop Femicides Platform, a rights group that monitors violence against women, at least 474 women were murdered in Turkey last year, most of them by current or former partners, family members, or unrelated men who wanted a relationship with them.

Last month, the brutal killing of Pinar Gultekin, a 27-year-old student in the southwestern province of Mugla, sparked widespread outrage in the country and prompted many to take to the streets. An ex-boyfriend has been charged with murder and jailed pending trial. Police said he confessed to the killing during questioning, according to local media.

According to a new survey by Ankara-based pollster MetroPoll., the majority of Turkish citizens are against the ruling Justice and Development Party's (AKP) plans to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe human rights treaty against domestic and gender-based violence, A total of 63.6 percent of those surveyed said they are opposed to the Turkish government's plans to scrap the convention while only 17 percent supported the idea.

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annulling the Law No.6284, enacted following the signing of the convention in 2011. The legislation calls for increased support services for women and children, including rape crisis centres and women's shelters, and allows for women subjected to domestic or sexual violence to take more effective action against their abusers while discouraging gendered bias in law enforcement and court systems.

Among AKP supporters, 49.7 percent said they were opposed to Turkey's withdrawal from the convention, while 25.2 percent remained in favour of it, the Metropoll survey found.

Unfortunately violence against women keeps being an unhealed wound in Turkey....

UNIATF

IAW is a member of the "friends of the **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Prevention and Control of NCDs**

Friends of the Task Force Meeting on the occasion of UN General Assembly 2020

Description

UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases: Working with Member States to deliver the NCD-related SDG targets during and beyond COVID-19.

Objectives:

- 1) To continue the collective journey of the 'Friends of the Task Force'
- 2) To highlight emerging evidence on the ways that COVID-19 and NCDs are interacting
- 3) To present new Task Force led partnerships and initiatives
- 4) To present the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund on NCDs and mental health
- 5) To present the 2020 Task Force Awards

Time

Sep 24, 2020 10:00 AM in **Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Register here:



Heidi Bodmer , new member of the Water and Pads group

Water and Pads

by Ursula Nakamura and Gudrun Haupter

Due to the worldwide Covid-19 crisis the planned water and pads events scheduled for 2020 have been postponed.

However, IAW member organizations organized emergency activities for the fight during this pandemic.

Now the new school year has started in many places, and we all hope that we can relaunch the WP-project as soon as possible. More than ever sexual health education is needed now, because the schoolgirls in precarious conditions were disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. Recent studies of UN and WHO show that the closing of schools resulted in an alarming increase of domestic violence, sexual abuse, more unwanted pregnancies and forced marriages.

No wonder that our IAW colleagues want to restart the WP project as quickly as possible!

Here in Europe we are preparing the new prints of booklets and trying to find more donations.

This means a lot of work for us in the background.

So we, the coordinators of the WP project are very happy that Heidi Bodmer joins us and gives her support.

Some IAW members met Heidi Bodmer at the IAW International meeting in Geneva in autumn 2019. For a long time Heidi has been a member of the Swiss IAW-affiliate ADF-SVF Suisse. She has experience in working with women's organizations in precarious situations.

Please read Heidi's short CV:

"Heidi Bodmer was working as a biomedical analyst for 35 years at the University of Basel. During her education she went to Great Britain to improve her English knowledge. Later on for her studies she was working in laboratories for medical analyses at Geneva and Fribourg.

In 1992 when the war started in the former Yugoslavia countries, she was a cofounder of "BaslerInnen für Bosnierinnen" (a project of Basel women to help female victims during and after wartime). In this association she was the

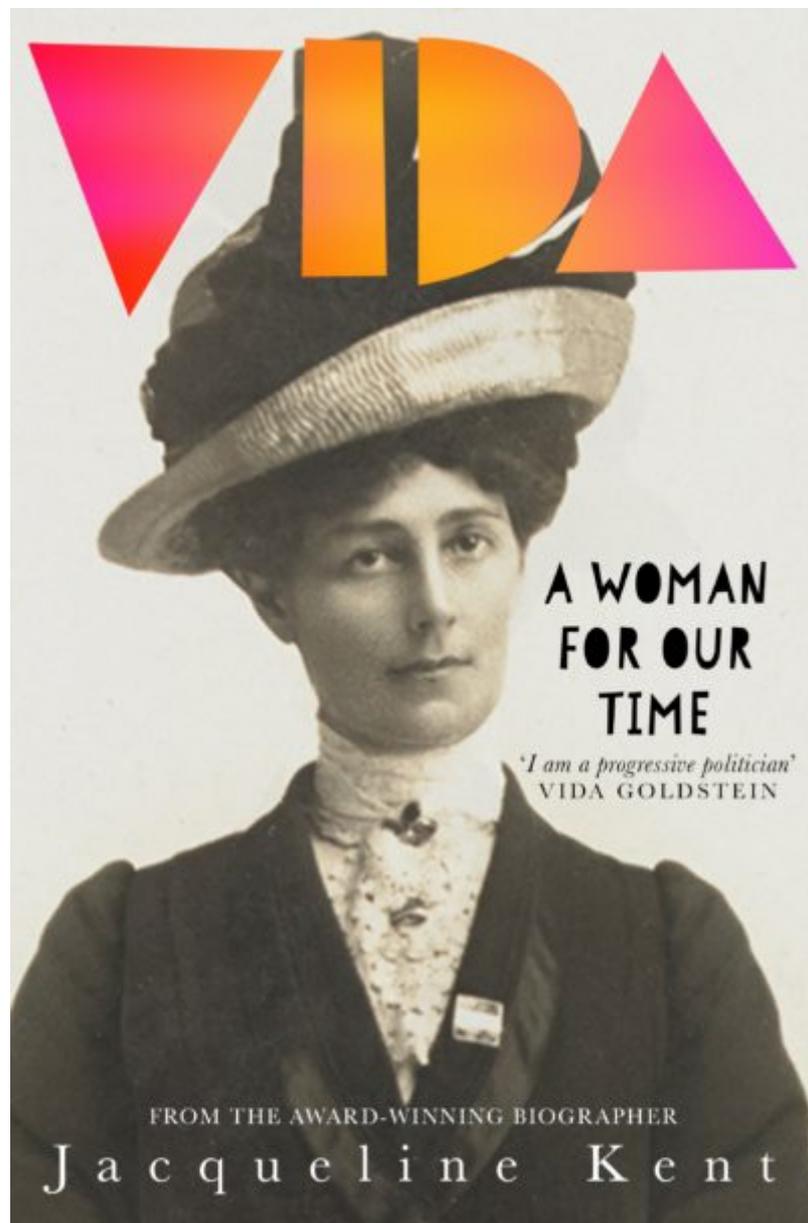
Bodmer organized a mobile dental practice called Dentalmobi, which was sent to Tuzla (Bosnia).

A dentist team drove to refugee camps, destroyed villages and schools.

During this period Heidi Bodmer was also working as an account auditor and vice president.

She is also a mother and grandmother.”

Vida Goldstein - A Woman for our Time



A newly released book about Vida Goldstein by Jacqueline Kent.

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In 1902 the National American Suffrage Association invited representatives of suffrage societies in other countries to attend its annual Convention in Washington D.C. Australian State societies raised funds to support Vida Goldstein as their delegate.

The meeting, chaired by Susan B. Anthony with Vida as secretary, voted to form an international body and drew up a Declaration of Principles. This led to the foundation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (now IAW) at a 1904 Congress in Berlin.

Read more about the book: in
[The Guardian](#)
[Books+ Publishing](#)

Newsletter Editorial Group

Lene Pind: lenepind@gmail.com

Cheryl Hayles: cherylhayles@sympatico.ca

Christina Knight: christina@uknight.se

Proofreading and advice:

Priscilla Todd, editor International Women's News, iawpmt@gmail.com

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