Presentation of Souad Houssein,
New Member of the Communications Unit.

Avec plus d’une vingtaine d’années d’expérience à son actif dans le domaine du cinéma francophone du Sud, Mme Souad HOUSSEIN (France-Djibouti) conduit

Durant sa carrière, Madame Houssein a établi des partenariats fructueux avec les Festivals de Venise, Dubai, Durban, et de New York etc) et initié en 2011 un projet de fonds panafricain pour le cinéma et l’audiovisuel africain qui avait suscité beaucoup d’intérêt de pays africains ainsi que le soutien de l’UNESCO et de l’Union Africaine.

Madame Houssein est titulaire d’une maîtrise en communication globale et d’un diplôme en relations internationales. Elle a occupé précédemment plusieurs fonctions dont celui de coordonnatrice de réunions aux Service des Instances à l’OIF (Sommets, Conférences Ministérielles, Conseils permanents de la Francophonie et Commission économique et politique). A Djibouti, elle a été coordonnatrice d’un programme d’alphabétisation fonctionnelle en français au sein de l’Union des Femmes Djiboutiennes (UNFD), financé par l’UNICEF.

Lire cette interview avec Souad Houssein
Dr. Ida Kurth
1943 - 2021

Ida was a long-standing individual member of IAW. She came to IAW as a representative of Deutscher Frauenring, a German affiliate of IAW. She attended many congresses and other IAW meetings, always full of passion about the issues that were closest to her heart: Climate change, the environment and population control.

She was a good friend, full of energy and fun to be with.

More about Ida will follow in International Women’s News.

Book Release:
Soon-Young Yoon: Citizen of the World
Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for IAW, launched her new book “Citizen of the World—Soon-Young and the UN” published by Ewha Womans University Press. Read the review by Pamela Grath. (https://booksinnorthport.blogspot.com/2021/08/an-important-book-surprise-from-korea.html). Soon-Young is offering a free copy to IAW members if they would promise to donate the book to a library after reading. For more information, see attached flyer. Note that similar content is available free in the online book (www.soonyoung.life).

Flyer

Afghanistan

Important statement by UN Women

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to the UN has sent the following:

Below is an important statement by Pramila Patten/UN Women on why women’s representation in the new government shaped by the Taliban is the real “litmus test” of their political intentions. She notes that Afghan women fought hard for a strong political and legal framework in line with Sharia law and this must be defended.


Afghanistan

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Women and the UN

Torild Skard, long-time member and great supporter of IAW, senior researcher etc writes:

Dear sisters,
Thank you for your efforts in these troubled times and for the information.

I have just received a new book “Women and the UN – a new history of women’s international human rights” (see below) which is now being published, and I thought it might interest IAW members (see attachments).

Abstract: "Women and the UN: A New History of Women’s International Human Rights”, The women whose voices this book presents helped shape UN conventions, declarations, and policies with relevance to the international human rights of women throughout the world today. From the founding of the UN and the Latin American feminist movements that pushed for gender equality in the UN Charter, up until the Security Council Resolutions on the role of women in peace and conflict, the volume reflects on how women delegates from different parts of the world have negotiated and disagreed on human rights issues related to gender within the UN throughout time. In doing so, it sheds new light on how these hidden historical narratives enrich theoretical studies in international relations and global agency today. In view of contemporary feminist and postmodern critiques of the origin of human rights, uncovering women’s history of the United Nations from both Southern and Western perspectives allows us to consider questions of feminism and agency in international relations afresh.

With contributions from leading scholars and practitioners of law, diplomacy, history, and development studies, and brought together by a theoretical commentary by the Editors, Rebecca Adami (Stockholm University) and Dan
Plesch (SOAS), Women and the UN will appeal to anyone whose research covers human rights, gender equality, international development, or the history of civil society.

I have written an introductory note in the book. I wish you all the best in these troubled times.

Torild Skard

Flyer

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for the IAW, has joined the steering committee of the C4UN (Coalition for the UN We Need). Yoon says that “the feminist and women’s movements have a stake in a strong and revitalized UN. Let us mobilize to help define our common agenda for future generations.” The C4UN initiative is dedicated to using the 75th anniversary of the United Nations as an opportunity to strengthen the UN system in partnership with civil society, governments, and the UN in support of a people-centered multilateralism. The co-chairs of this committee are Maria Espinoza (former President of the Generat Assembly 2019) and Dan Perell, UN representative of Baha’i International. IAW members are invited to join the coalition (see: https://c4unwn.org) and to consult the UN Secretary-General’s new
Get the communications pack here
Soon-Young recommends this pack with all its links especially to our commissions.

#CallItFemicide
Understanding sex/gender-related killings of women and girls in Canada, 2020

Femicide Is Preventable
by Heide Schuetz, Convener of the IAW Peace Commission.

Direct Link to Full 88-Page Publication: #CallItfemicide: Understanding sex/gender-related killings of women and girls in Canada, 2020 (femicideincanada.ca)

Empowering girls and young women, promoting equality for all women and confronting stereotypes and biases about violence against women can help prevent femicide.

Femicide is generally defined as the killing of one or more females, primarily by males, because they are female. It represents the extremes of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

A key contributor to femicide and violence against women is gender inequality. Femicide is increasingly recognized as a global, widespread and persistent human rights’ violation. The way in which nation states or governments respond to femicide has become the focus of international attention because no country is free from this type of violence. Inadequate state responses and the
The **Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability** (CFOJA) was established in response to a call for action from the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner's *Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences* for countries to document gender-related killings of women by collecting, analyzing and reviewing data on femicides with the aim of prevention.

- One woman or girl is killed every other day, on average, somewhere in our country.
- About once a week, a woman is killed by her male partner in Canada.

Various other forms of oppression such as racism and poverty increase women’s marginalization by society and, in turn, their vulnerability to femicide in various contexts.
Women’s experiences of oppression and inequality as well as attitudes, beliefs and stereotypes about violence against women and girls perpetuate and maintain practices that are harmful to women and girls.
The overarching goal of the CFOJA is to establish a visible and national focus on femicide in Canada. In addition to remembering and honoring Canadian women and girls who become victims of femicide, the CFOJA will examine social and legal responses to femicide, represented by media and the criminal justice system, respectively.
By confronting stereotypes and biases about violence against women and girls, including femicide, our goal is to empower girls and young women and promote all women’s equality overall.

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**Water and Pads Project**
Thérése Akakpo  
Coordinator, La Colombe, Togo  
Coordinatrice LA COLOMBE Togo

Heidi Bohmer  
Packing the booklets for shipping  
prépare les brochures pour l’envoi

**Water and Pads Project – A Challenge between Hopeful Projects and a Lack of Finances**

**Three new projects**
As you know, we are always struggling to get more financial support. So at the beginning of summer we were very happy to get an extra donation by a Swiss foundation, but it was explicitly intended for new projects. Thanks to this donation we now can cover almost all costs of three “new schools”

We already knew that two IAW organizations wanted to reach out to schools in precarious condition. Both Anne Yotchou of **CEFAP** and Quinta Ka of **RENATA** voiced their great concern about the situation of many school children in their country, Cameroon. They both wanted to reach out to high school students (age 12-16). CEFAP was contacting a school at Doumbai Ngaoundéré. This rural region situated in the far North is bilingual (French and English) and is always threatened by gang attacks.

RENATA got in touch with a secondary school at Bikok, also a poor area in the region of Yaoundé.

Already last year we had been in touch with Thérèse Akakpo, the coordinator of **LA COLOMBE** organization. Many of our IAW colleagues might know Thérèse from former IAW meetings. For many years Gudrun Haupter, mandated by Deutscher Frauenring, has been working very closely with this organization, and she knew that Thérèse also wanted to join the WP project.

Last year **LA COLOMBE** had been engaged in helping vulnerable women during
New planning
With all this, we had to adapt our planning. We had to get all necessary information about the specific “new schools”. This is crucial for establishing a good collaboration on all levels, be it teachers, parents, media etc. We also had to organize reprints of all “our booklets”. Then at the beginning of August Heidi Bodmer, Rolf Keller and I could prepare the parcels for shipping. Now we hope that they will reach their destination in time for the new school term in early autumn.

How about the other “WP-organizations”?
None of them is giving up. Quite the contrary! Some of them are in permanent touch with “their” schools.
They also had requests from some directors to continue the WP project regularly each year! This shows how much needed these very successful activities are. Some of our IAW colleagues would very much like to reinforce the menstrual education several times within a year in “their” schools, but we are only able to provide the necessary yearly finances for one single event at each school.

How about the communication?
It is surprising how our IAW colleagues manage to communicate despite of many obstacles. It works thanks to their mobile phones! They take pictures of their events, and then they write their reports. Later on we upload all on the WP website which has now become a source of many motivating experiences and information..

Projet d'eau et serviettes - Un défi entre des projets pleins d'espoir et un manque de moyens financiers

Trois nouveaux projets
Comme il est bien connu, nous luttons toujours pour obtenir plus de soutien financier. Ainsi, au début de l’été, nous avons été très heureuses de recevoir un don supplémentaire d’une fondation suisse, mais il était explicitement destiné aux nouveaux projets. Grâce à ce don, nous pouvons maintenant couvrir presque tous les coûts de trois "nouvelles écoles".

Nous savions déjà que deux organisations de l’AIF voulaient atteindre des écoles en situation précaire. Anne Yotchou de CEFAP et Quinta Ka de RENATA ont exprimé leur grande préoccupation concernant de nombreuses écolières dans leur pays, le Cameroun. Elles souhaitaient toutes deux atteindre des élèves du niveau lycée (12-16 ans). CEFAP a contacté une école à Doumbai Ngaoundéré. Cette région rurale située dans l’extrême Nord est bilingue (français et anglais) et est toujours menacée par des attaques de gangs.
L’année dernière déjà, nous avons été en contact avec Thérèse Akakpo, la coordinatrice de l’organisation LA COLOMBE. Beaucoup de nos collègues de l’AIF connaissent peut-être Thérèse lors de réunions de l’AIF. Depuis de nombreuses années, Gudrun Haupter, mandatée par le Deutscher Frauenring, a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec cette organisation et donc elle savait que Thérèse souhaitait également rejoindre le projet « Eau et serviettes ». L’année dernière, LA COLOMBE s’est beaucoup engagée dans l’aide aux femmes vulnérables lors des pandémies au Togo, voir le site web « Eau et serviettes ». Les nouvelles activités seront menées au Complexe scolaire "Le Guide" à Agbémavo, une école secondaire dans une région très pauvre du sud du Togo.

**Nouvelle planification**

Avec tout cela, nous avons dû adapter notre planification. Nous avons dû obtenir toutes les informations nécessaires sur les "nouvelles écoles" spécifiques. Ceci est déterminant pour établir une bonne collaboration à tous les niveaux, qu’il s’agisse des enseignants, des parents, des médias, etc. Nous avons également dû organiser la réimpression de toutes « nos » brochures. Puis, au début du mois d’août, Heidi Bodmer, Rolf Keller et moi-même avons pu préparer les colis pour l’expédition. Nous espérons maintenant qu’ils arriveront à destination à temps pour les classes en automne !

**Et les autres organisations de l’AIF qui s’engagent au projet ?**

Aucune d’entre elles n’abandonne. Bien au contraire ! Certaines d’entre elles sont en contact permanent avec "leurs" écoles. Elles ont également reçu des demandes de directeurs et directrices pour poursuivre le projet « Eau et serviettes » régulièrement chaque année ! Cela est un succès et montre à quel point ces activités sont nécessaires. Certaines de nos collègues de l’AIF aimeraient beaucoup renforcer l’éducation menstruelle plusieurs fois par an dans "leurs" écoles, mais nous ne pouvons que fournir les fonds annuels nécessaires pour un seul événement dans chaque école.

**Ursula Nakamura and Gudrun Haupter September 10 2021**

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**Feminism in the Netherlands - an intergenerational dialogue**

by Arina Angerman

On 17.6.2021 Alison Brown forwarded a Site Contact Form to Lyda Verstegen and me with an interview request from Katalin Miklós-Kokor from Transylvania (Romania). She studies International Relationships and European Studies at the Sapientia EMTE University.
As part of an internship programme, she had to interview one chosen person or group from the country she covered in her thesis. Last year she chose the Netherlands and this year she wanted to present a topic which unfortunately is not very popular in her country: feminism.

Katalin: “As I searched through the infinite Google pages, I found your website and immediately thought that this is the right choice. I was fascinated by the articles that I read on your website and I am really curious about what it is like to work at a place that is based on respect and acceptance.”

We - Lyda and I - decided to follow up on her request and also asked Erica van Engel to join in order to represent three generations (80+, 60+ and 50+) and three cities in the Netherlands: The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The interview took place on 23 June 2021 via google meet as a platform: Katalin asked us various questions to talk about together. I focussed on two issues:

1. Personal presentation and connection to IAW
2. How is the situation in the Netherlands

Re 1. Lyda Verstegen, honorary president of IAW, is a lawyer and worked as an assistant to the clerk in the national parliament in the fifties. She had to leave her job after having a baby. In the nineties she became very active in the Dutch affiliate of IAW - Vrouwenbelangen - and has worked many years to improve the constitution and by-laws of IAW.

Arina Angerman is a historian and has worked as a programme manager to improve the participation of women in political decision-making in the nineties. She has helped IAW to remain visible on Twitter since October 2014 when she became a Board Member of the European Women’s Lobby.

Erica van Engel is an entrepreneur. She helps impact-driven women to build a conscious business. Erica was born in Surinam, a former colony of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in South America. She represents IAW in UNIDO, headquartered in Vienna. Erica was raised by a single mother and is now one herself. Her mother is a strong and inspiring role model as is Erica to her daughter.

Re 2. Lyda Verstegen remembers very well the period in the fifties when women had to leave their job when they got married.

Arina Angerman became a conscious feminist in 1979 when she was a member of the herstory group and discussed the possibility of having an abortion. Today this is called mansplaining.

Erica van Engel emphasised the BIG issue for 3 out of 4 Dutch women who are working part time and 1 out of 2 women not being economically independent. The Netherlands is #31 in Gender Gap Index.

The interview with Katalin was a nice experience.

We wish to share with the younger generations: remain economically independent, remain hopeful and look for supportive feminist men!
IAW welcomes Rebeca Grynspan as Secretary-General of UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Rebeca Grynspan is the first woman to hold that position. Photo: UNCTAD

This newsletter was edited by Lene Pind. Proofreading by Priscilla Todd

Next deadline: November 15

Contributions to the December Newsletter should be sent to Lene Pind at iaw.newsletter@womenalliance.org and Souad Hussein at souadh2o@gmail.com

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