IAW Newsletter October 2022 no.5

Membership Fees and Voting Rights

Dear members, especially individual members.

All members have received invoices for their membership fee for 2022, Reminders have also been sent.
These are the rules for membership.
Membership fees are paid on an annual basis. Members who are three years or more in arrears are at risk of losing their membership.

Voting at Congress:
Affiliates each have 10 votes, associates 5. Individual members each have 1 vote.
To have the right to vote in Congress, members must be fully paid up including the year of Congress, i.e. 2022.

We look forward to receiving your fees and to having you as continuing members.

Lene Pind and Holly Herbert
Membership Secretary and Assistant Membership Secretary

Press Release:
IAW calls for a clear and firm UN Action Plan
International Meeting

September 25 2022
Report by Alison Brown

Åsa Regnér

Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women gave the keynote speech at the International Meeting.

Watch her speech here

On September 24, 2022 the virtual International Meeting was convened in cyberspace. This Constitutionally mandated meeting is for the heads of Affiliates and Associates to speak directly with the elected Board Members, to explain the projects that are the focus of their work and discuss among themselves what issues they have in common and how they might be approached with the assistance of the network IAW provides.

Having virtual meetings has been considered a benefit since there is no travel involved, no time is taken to organize trips, crossing time zones, and no precious funds need be diverted from the real work of the organisation to pay for flights and hotel rooms.

Nevertheless, the number of organisations represented, 13 from 28 Affiliates and 16 Associates, did not exceed those who have attended International Meetings in the recent past where we met so convivially as guests of one of our member organisations. While we are grateful for the material support of our inactive members, the point of holding the International Meeting is to learn what their focal points are and see where the membership of IAW can assist in the realization. The positive aspect of the low turnout was that each member organisation who chose to take the opportunity had more time to speak to the meeting about the issues uppermost in their minds.

Certain themes echoed across the globe, The Danish Women's Society is working on
WHII in India. Indeed, during the meeting Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Convenor of the Education Commission, recruited new members for her IAW team. During their report, the SVF-ADF mentioned a book that was impressing the activists in Switzerland: *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez, which title struck a chord with the attendees at the meeting.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to fulfilling the Constitutional requirement that the International Meeting determine the theme of the upcoming Congress. This year the timeline is somewhat short, but the activists at the meeting had many interesting ideas. Some suggested gender budgeting, the bailiwick of acting President Marion Böcker, others women and peace. When the idea of the In-Visible Women was brought up, it was agreed that that gave a lot of leeway to incorporate the other ideas. Executive Vice President Manju Kak spoke of the issue of women in Media in this context. The lack of funding for women’s priorities in government budgets or the absence of women at the table during peace negotiations, despite the unanimous adoption of Women, Peace and Security SC-Res 1325, can be dealt with under this title.

The International Meeting voted overwhelmingly to develop the theme *In-visible Women* for the 39th Congress of IAW. As Congress is virtual, the job of giving this theme life will be left to the organizing Task Force, but the suggestions of all IAW members are welcome..

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The Swedish Income Gap
Interim Secretary General.

From the left: Anna Stina Johansson, Alma Adan and Lisa Minnhagen.

The income gap between women and men in Sweden has remained the same since 1995.

The unequal distribution of wealth is the main reason why our country now is sliding in different global gender gap rankings.

A national survey ordered by Fredrika Bremer Association in 2021 shows that 4 out of 10 Swedish women are uncertain if they could afford to leave their marriage because of their weak economy. This is a huge interference to the gender equality goal passed in the parliament 2005 saying that women and men should have the same freedom, opportunity and power to shape society and their own lives.

This is why Fredrika Bremer Association started the project Women’s Lifelong Economy, financed by the Swedish Gender Equality Agency. The scope of the project is both to put pressure on legislators and politicians and also to make women aware of the financial consequences of their decisions in different stages in life.

Eight educational videos were made about gender equal finances and family law as well as digital textbooks that could be used in study groups, family dinners or hen parties.

Now for 2022, the Swedish Gender Equality Agency has granted us funding for Women’s Lifelong Economy 2.0. This time we target immigrant women. The goal is to both elevate their awareness of their rights in Sweden and to help them to for instance open a bank account.

This is actually going back to the roots of the Fredrika Bremer Association. The organization was founded 1884 for women’s emancipation and one of the services provided really early was to help women with legal advice or just practical things how to get a job.

We, as was Fredrika Bremer the famous writer in whose name we operate, are convinced that we cannot climb higher on the gender equality stairways unless we also lift up those who need it the most.

Survie la mere et l’enfant - Benin
Aurelienne DEFODJI, Cheffe Projet - Prisque Sinzogan, présidente

FEMMES ET ENGAGEMENT POLITIQUE AU BENIN
par Madame Aurelienne DEFODJI, Cheffe Projet

L’équilibre du monde est tributaire du niveau de respect des droits de la femme. L’humanité l’a si bien compris que de plus en plus d’actions, quand bien même isolées, se réalisent. La République du Bénin quant à elle s’est dotée le 14 Novembre 2019 d’un Code Electoral dont les articles 144 et 145 stipulent clairement que « Au moins une femme doit être bien positionnée dans chacune des vingt-quatre Circonscriptions électorales que compte le pays ». En cas de respect de cette disposition légale, l’Assemblée Nationale du Bénin devra compter au moins vingt-quatre femmes sur les cent neuf Députés.

Quel progrès !

Fort de cette ouverture, l’ONG SURVIE DE LE MERE ET DE L’ENFANT dont la vision est : « La démocratie restera toujours inachevée tant que les droits de la majorité que constituent les femmes et les enfants ne seront pas intégralement respectés », a élaboré un projet dénommé « Projet de mise en place d’une pépinière de femmes leaders dans les communes de Dassa-Zoumé, Glazoué et Savalou. La phase expérimentale qui s’est déroulée du 1er Avril 2021 au 31 Mars 2022 a produit quatre-vingt-dix femmes leaders dont quarante-cinq issues des partis politiques actifs au Bénin, quinze dans le monde des artisans puis trente dans le monde des étudiantes. Les quarante-cinq femmes leaders issues des partis politiques s’activent très sérieusement pour les élections législatives de Janvier 2023. Le succès remporté par ce projet a motivé le gouvernement du Canada agissant par l’entremise d’Affaires Mondiales Canada à renouveler le projet pour les trois autres communes du département des Collines. Cette phase II du projet qui a démarré le 1er Avril 2022 est actuellement en cours et s’achèvera le 31 Mars 2023. Cette
quatre vice-présidentes sur six, devrait inspirer les démocrates africains.
Le bonheur se lisait sur le visage de Madame Marie-Fiacre MITOBABA, Représentante d’Affaires Mondiales Canada le 10 Août 2022 à Dassa-Zoumé à l’occasion des activités de suivi du projet.
L’ambition de l’ONG est de dupliquer ce projet dans plusieurs autres départements que compte le Bénin, en prélude aux élections communales, municipales, législatives et présidentielle de 2026. L’ONG s’est donnée pour objectifs, au moins trente (30) femmes à l’Assemblée Nationale sur les cent neuf députés à élire, trente (30) femmes Maires sur les soixante-dix-sept (77) à élire et un nombre important de femmes Chefs d’Arrondissements et de villages. La Présidente de SURVIE ONG, Madame SINZOGAN Prisque est très fière des résultats de la phase I du projet et prendra très bientôt son bâton de pèlerin pour la mobilisation de ressources financières qui permettront à l’ONG de préparer véritablement les élections de 2026.
www.surviemereenfant.org ; email : ong.survie@gmail.com

Madame Aurelienne DEFODJI, Cheffe Projet.
Email : aureliennedefodji@gmail.com
The Danish Women's Society (DWS) was founded in 1871 by a man and a woman, Frederik and Mathilde Bajer, so in 2021 there was reason to celebrate 150 years of work for women. Due to Covid, however, the celebrations have taken place in 2022. On the occasion of the festivities, Signe Gissel Schmidt, then vice president of DWS and IAW Board Member, managed to establish cooperation between the Danish Women's Society and the Danish Postal Service with the aim of producing stamps with portraits of prominent women from different ages and different positions: women from academia, politics, the arts, literature and a modern rapper.

News from New York
September 2022

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative of the IAW in New York, was a member of the Gender Equality Council of the President of the UN General Assembly in 2022. During Ambassador Shahid’s tenure, the council assisted to help bring the first lactation rooms to UN headquarters, boost the visibility of girls in science and technology, and mainstream gender equality into GA special sessions.

The IAW also sits on the steering committee of the C4UN, a civil society organization whose objective is to enlarge the space for civil society actions to revitalize the UN. The IAW has helped commission papers on a Feminist Critique of the Secretary-General’s “Our Common Agenda” report. Although there is ample reference to the importance of gender equality and women’s leadership in the SG report, it was lacking substantive
should will help guide the outcomes of the 2023 Future Summit and review of the SDGs.

For the GA session this year on 20 September, the IAW co-sponsored (with the WGL and C4UN) a working luncheon on Feminist Foreign Policies which will include heads of state representatives. A report on that will be provided in the next newsletter.

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**Stronger roots in the Water and Pads Project!**

by Ursula Nakamura, Co-Coordinator IAW Water and Pads project

How can the WP project develop further despite upheavals such as climate change, the Ukraine war and other disasters by which the global South is particularly affected? Can our IAW colleagues continue contacting "their" schools at all? Can they manage to
We often worried about this in our small WP working group consisting of Anne Yotchou, Heidi Bodmer, Pascale Vallée and me, as we were editing an updated WP flyer. Unbelievable - in our recent survey, all WP participants answered that they definitely want to run a WP campaign again this year! Some of them were already carrying out WP events or were planning them in "their" schools, and they made already non-binding contacts with "new" schools. Obviously, all school administrators are convinced of the importance of this menstrual training and want to integrate the WP events in their schools also in future! By now the WP project is well rooted within all WP participating organisations. We owe this great success to the enormous commitment of our highly competent IAW colleagues in the field!
This is so motivating! More important than ever that now we are looking for more finances e.g. with more publicity!

Thus, the new WP flyer was created with joint forces in the shortest time possible. It reflects the WP project at present, which is clearly focussed on the teaching of menstrual health to schoolgirls (and schoolboys). In the long term, reusable sanitary pads are to be produced by local women in micro-enterprises. All nine WP-organisations are shown in this new flyer with their portrait-photos. The images are all selected from WP events in Africa and Asia. Claudia Paletto, graphic designer, has updated the layout, and Holly Herbert from IAW in Australia did the English proofreading.
Many thanks to them all!

Please disseminate the flyer virtually! You can also download it from the IAW website or the WP-website. You may print it conveniently and distribute it at an official in person meeting or at a private festivity. It is an excellent way for getting donations. The flyer is available in English, French and German.
Now we wish the flyer every success.
......and read the comments of Rosy Weiss and Alison Brown

It is exciting to read about the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in the USA in the 19th century and to recognize the names of women who brought the struggle for women's political rights into our European organizations.

Amazingly, Carrie Chapman Catt, IAW's first president, does not seem to play the prominent role she had in the European context. This despite the fact that she was part of the National Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) from 1900, following in the footsteps of Susan B. Anthony, who was the honorary president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at its founding. Catt stepped back from her NAWSA office for family reasons, but resumed the presidency from 1915 to 1920. Catt also founded the American League of Women Voters which is very active around elections to this day. Her statue stands in Statuary Hall at the US Capitol.

It is important to note that the energetic Alice Paul founded the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage because NAWSA was not militant enough on the national stage, preferring to fight for suffrage at the state level. An interesting side note: the lack of energetic political action for woman suffrage was a reason that IWSA was founded by dissidents from the International Council of Women. Positively surprising, the role played by Black women in those early decades of the American suffrage and most welcome as initial information for a young audience.

Ruhi Sayid

has retired on completion of her fourth tenure as Chairperson of All Pakistan Women's Association in Punjab, Pakistan. Ruhi Sayid was Executive Vice President of IAW 2017-2020.

About the massive floods in Pakistan:
On 4 September, Ruhi writes, The floods are quite devastating, millions of people have been displaced and are homeless. Everybody has pitched in helping out but it is like a drop in the ocean. Sharing a few pictures attached below of APWA Punjab's flood relief program.
l’Association d’appui aux femmes et enfants vulnérables (ADAFEV)

Réunion des membres de la MUSO Maendeleo

Rapport des activités par Coordinatrice de IADAFEV

Au cours de la période du mois juillet à août 2022, l’Association d’appui aux femmes et enfants vulnérables, ADAFEV en sigle a mis l’accent particulier sur le suivi et l’évaluation de ses activités de « Mutuelle de Solidarité », MUSO en faveur des femmes et filles vivantes avec le VIH/SIDA et femmes victimes de violences sexuelles à l’Est de la République Démocratique du Congo, précisément dans le territoire de Fizi, une zone où sévisse les conflits armés à répétition et où les femmes en subissent les conséquences.

Dans la pratique, à partir des avantages de la MUSO, nous sensibilisons les femmes et
entreprendre une activité génératrice de revenus (AGR) dans le but d’émanciper et autonomiser financièrement les femmes vulnérables. Celles-ci remboursent le fonds au groupe moyennant un taux d’intérêt bien convenu. Cet intérêt permet d’augmenter les fonds de notre association et augmente la capacité de crédit pouvant être octroyé à d’autres femmes membres du groupe. Ainsi, nous parlons d’un crédit rotatif dont la priorité est orienté vers les femmes/filles n’exerçant pas d’AGR ou celles dont l’AGR nécessite une amélioration.
Fait à Fizi, le 30/08/2022

« Fille d’aujourd’hui, femme de demain : Préservons les jeunes filles en milieu scolaire contre la migration clandestine »

stop à la migration clandestine des jeunes filles scolarisées

CONFERENCE - CAUSERIE DE L’ASSOCIATION USUC ET DE L’ONG ADCF A SOKODE AU TOGO LE 12 AOUT 2022 :
Par Dr Djamila Goumaiwè ASSAMA SIDI, Membre individuelle de l’AIF, Socio-diplomate Consultante auprès du Cabinet SIDICOM-SPWEP, Conférencière, Marraine de l’Association « Une Sœur Une Collégienne » et Présidente de l’ONG Action pour le Développement et les Conseils des Femmes (ADCF)

Read more

Success stories from India
Sent by Anjana Basu

THE WOMEN WHO SHAPE GODDESSES

Kumartuli in Calcutta is the heart of the potters’ community. There the deities for Durga Puja celebrations the world over are shaped. After the pandemic, women potters have been coming to the forefront to take the helm. Mala Pal, who belongs to a family of potters, has now progressed to starting a training class, where future generations can learn to take up the craft. This is a first for someone who is a woman and making her way in a demanding profession. China Pal from the same community is making a name with her deities for various Pujas having taken over her father’s atelier during lockdown.

Read about
China Pal: Durga Puja 2022 - Idol-maker China Pal shaped a new life for herself - Telegraph India

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