



International Women's NEWS NOUVELLES Feministes Internationales

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IAW in Berlin

Board Meeting and Seminar
Hosted by Deutscher Frauenring



“ No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half its citizens. ”

Michelle Obama

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We have lost many members over recent decades, some very prominent in the work of the Alliance and more who have been wellknown at national and local levels, working within their communities and supporting their chosen organisations. This edition includes a tribute to Kaye Fraleigh, our representative at the UN in New York for many years. Those who knew Kaye are remembering what a tower of strength she was for many of us over the years.

To all our readers, remember that archives are very important so please make sure that your organisation keeps historical records and that these always include information about individual members. So much known history has sidelined or often just forgotten women down the ages and, while most organisations have websites now, those archives should be preserved with an institution such as a library or a university to ensure they can be accessed by future generations.

For the current record, we will be preparing information about the International and Board meetings in Geneva this month and would like to include comments from those of you attending. Please send me photos (with names) and your comments and thoughts about the meetings, however short.

My apologies that this edition is so late. It was planned to bring you news from Berlin 2018 early in the year but unfortunately I had a fall which meant wearing a head and neck brace for some months. I'm avoiding long flights from Australia so won't see you in Geneva. To all those attending, I wish you happy and productive meetings.

Recently, my computer was attacked by malware and the whole system encrypted so I had to set up a new system. Even though I had extensive backups on portable drives and USBs, I am still discovering missing information so please, let this be a wake up call to you all: regularly backup your files on portable drives and USBs; keep separate detailed lists of all your contacts; use Bcc when you are circulating an email to a lot of your contacts; make sure your computer security is up to date.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS IN BRIEF

IAW in Berlin October 2018

The Alliance returned to Berlin in October hosted by our German affiliate, Deutscher Frauenring (DFR). DFR organised a very successful Peace Seminar to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote for women in Germany. You will find a condensed version of the full report produced by DFR in this edition of IWNews.

The front cover shows a photo of the majority of delegates who attended the Board meeting. President Joanna Manganara recorded a warm welcome to recently appointed **Secretary General Olufunmi (Funmi) Oluyede** and **Asst Sec-General Tunica Miranda Ruzario**. Sadly Funmi could not attend the meeting due to health reasons and Miranda gamely took on the task of overseeing and taking notes throughout the proceedings assisted by past Sec-General Alison Brown and other members. New IAW Initiatives was one of the highlights of discussion when we were introduced to IAW work on different topics one of which is **Work on Menstrual Hygiene** (*the IAW website and Newsletter has information about how this project is growing*). It is hoped to report on some of the other initiatives in later editions of IWNews.

We were invited to a reception at the Berlin House of Parliament to celebrate the centenary of the women's vote in Germany. We were welcomed by Ms Fatime Topac, Delegate and Member of the Presidium and greeted by Derya Caglar, Delegate of the Berlin House of Parliament and others.



Vale Kay Fraleigh 1926-2019

by Priscilla Todd | Editor IWNews

Vale Kay Fraleigh 1926-2019

Kay's warm and generous hospitality welcomed everyone to parties in her room, in larger spaces in hotels where we could all meet and at her home in Queens. I met Kay when Women's Electoral Lobby and the League of Women Voters hosted the 1989 Congress in Melbourne and started to understand her dedication to IAW and its work. During the 1999 Congress in New York, Kay's office at CCUN became our headquarters.

Priscilla Todd



Kay was such a stalwart at CCUN and in many ways was responsible for its setting up as NGO headquarters at the UN. It has been such an important centre for decades and for IWTC, it most definitely provided us with a central location for our activities throughout the years between the first and last UN World Conferences and NGO Tribunals on Women stretching from 1975 to 1995. Kay was central to all of that and will always be remembered for the part she played.

Anne S Walker, Executive Director, International Women's Tribune Centre 1976-2002

That makes me so sad. I adored her. Kay was the life and soul of IAW. What one looked forward to most each time was meeting up with Kay and her entourage again. She would buy a mountain of food (and booze) at the airport and begin the session with a party in her room.

Helen Self

She was so vibrant and I have very vivid memories of her. I loved her company. I think the last time I saw her was in Paris about ten years ago... we all jumped into a cab and went to the Rodin Museum together. I also remember being on a small tour bus with her and Jim and a few others in 2000 in Sri Lanka...It was hideously hot... one day, I chickened out and stayed in the bus but she and Jim soldiered on... one of them ended up with sun stroke! What a lot of adventures we had in IAW.

She was devoted to her work for IAW and was an honorary Vice President.

Pat Richardson

Obituary : Published in *The New York Times* on August 4, 2019

FRALEIGH--Kathleen Sophia, a leader in women's global advocacy, died on August 2, 2019 in North Bergen, N.J. She was 92 years old. Kathleen, best known as Kay, was born on October 10, 1926, in Manhattan to James and Gertrude (nee Finnegan) Fraleigh. Kay served as the chairwoman of the Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women from 1975 through 1985, during which UN Women's Conferences were held in Mexico City, Mexico (1975),

Copenhagen, Denmark (1980) and Nairobi, Kenya (1985). From 1982 through 1991, Kay also served as chair of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women, New York, which supports the work of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women. Additionally, she was an International Alliance of Women permanent resident to the United Nations.

Kay was a lifelong adventurous traveler. After retiring, she spent several months each year in Calpi, Spain with her husband, Jim, whom she married in 1988. She will be remembered by family and friends for her cheerful, optimistic spirit. Kay was predeceased by her husband, James H. Potts, and her brother, James B. Fraleigh. Her ashes will be interred at Cutchogue Cemetery in Cutchogue, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to United Methodist Women. The family would like to thank the staff at Hudson Hills Senior Living, who cared for Kay during her final years.

What is the Church Center for the United Nations?

CCUN was established in 1963 to symbolize and strengthen the churches' dedication to the things that make for peace. Located directly across the street from United Nations (U.N.) headquarters in New York City, this 12-story building has served as a vital hub for the work of the ecumenical and nongovernmental community toward a vision of peaceful and prosperous coexistence among nations while recognizing the human rights and dignity of all people.

A Place for Research and Study

On the concourse level is the Ecumenical Women's Resource Center. Along with the collected material of longtime friend and volunteer Kay Fraleigh, a leader in women's global advocacy, CCUN is home to the Esther W. Hymer Collection. The donation of Ms. Hymer's lifetime collection at the age of 96 to the resource center filled in some missing foundational documents of the women's movement and helped make the Ecumenical Women's Resource Center a treasure trove of documents detailing NGO work alongside the U.N. work for the advancement of women since the U.N.'s inception.



Kay in her office with Judith Gordon, Lene Pind and Irimi Sarlis





compiled by Jessica Orban, Holly Herbert and Lea Börgerding

In France, Medically Assisted Procreation will soon be available to all women.

Under current French law, only heterosexual couples who have been married or living together for over two years can have access to medically assisted procreation (MAP) procedures such as in vitro fertilisation (IVF), artificial insemination or sperm donation.

Two months after a new draft law on bioethics was launched by the French government in July 2019, on Friday 27

September the National Assembly (the lower house of the bicameral Parliament in France) voted in favour of making medically assisted procreation accessible to all women.

This includes lesbian couples and single women, for whom MAP will soon be legal and covered by social security. However, 'ROPA' shared motherhood methods - where both mothers take part in the conception with donor sperm, one providing the eggs and the other carrying the pregnancy - remains illegal.

It has also been pointed out that transgender women as well as women whose partners have passed away after starting a procedure remain excluded. In the latter case, women have several options: donate the embryo to scientific research or to an infertile couple; or authorise destruction of the embryo.

Oaxaca becomes second Mexican state to decriminalize abortion

On Wednesday 25 September 2019, the Southern Mexican state of Oaxaca became the second in the country to decriminalise abortion (Mexico City was the first in 2007). The measure allows the termination of pregnancy up to the 12th week. This was met with demonstrations from anti-abortion groups outside the congressional building as well as with celebrations from pro-choice activists wearing green scarves on their necks and wrists echoing the global movement in favour of legal, free and safe abortion.



© Photograph: Jose Luis Plata/Reuters

The fight isn't over.

In the other 30 Mexican states, abortion is permitted only in cases of rape or threat to the mother's life. In more conservative states such as Guanajuato city, abortion can carry a sentence of up to 30 years in prison.

Young women are at the forefront of global climate protests

Across the globe, climate protests have grown significantly stronger in 2019, with new movements such as Fridays for Future and Extinction Rebellion attracting more and more support.

While the environmentalist movement has existed for decades, it has traditionally been dominated by white men in most places. This seems to be changing rapidly at the moment: not only its leaders but also the wider climate movement itself is becoming younger, more diverse, and noticeably overwhelmingly female. Because women bear



© Photograph: EPA (www.mmtimes.com/news/young-women-helping-change-face-global-green-movement.html)

a heavier burden when it comes to the risks of climate crisis, because they are more acutely subject to poverty, they are also uniquely positioned at the frontline of the climate crisis battle. Now, they seem to increasingly be using their position to push for change.

To find out more, check out some of the following exciting articles:

- www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/24/teen-girls-are-leading-climate-strikes-helping-change-face-environmentalism/
- www.teenvogue.com/story/climate-activists-explain-why-climate-justice-movement-needs-feminism-women-climate-change-leaders
- www.gal-dem.com/on-individualism-whiteness-and-activist-superstars/

In South Africa, protesters are demanding action on violence against women

In September 2019, thousands of protesters took to the streets of Johannesburg to draw attention to the scourge of femicides in South Africa over the past years. The protests are said to have been sparked after 19-year-old Nene Mrwetyana was raped and murdered by post office employee Luyanda Botha in August. The case that shocked the country is seen as emblematic of much larger, society-wide problems. Official statistics show that in South Africa, at least 137 sexual offences are committed per day, mainly against women.



© Photograph: Nic Bothma/EPA

Activists argue that the South African government has so far taken too lax an approach towards crimes affecting not only women but also children. So in September, women from across South Africa marched to parliament in Cape Town dressed in black and purple. They were commemorating those women who lost their lives in August, what became known as the most deadly month for violent crimes against women the country has ever seen.

To find out more, read:

- www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/05/thousands-protest-in-south-africa-over-rising-violence-against-women and <https://www.apnews.com/7457d903ac074f78b393218710c122b4>.

Recommendation: Intersectionality Matters! Podcast

There are a lot of great feminist political podcasts out there these days including, for example, *Mother of Invention* by the former Irish President Mary Robinson and comedian Maeve Higgins; *Intersectionality Matters!* by host Kimberlé Crenshaw, American civil rights advocate and a leading scholar of critical race theory, and The African American Policy Forum, promises to be one of those. The podcast features on the ground interviews with some of the world's most innovative activists, artists and scholars. First published in 2018, each episode explores a different topic through an intersectional lens, ranging from the U.S. Supreme Court to grassroots activism in Brazil and the Congo to #SayHerName and the future of the #MeToo campaign.

Check it out! www.aapf.org/all-episodes

AAPF AND KIMBERLE CRENSHAW PRESENT:
INTERSECTIONALITY MATTERS!
 The podcast that brings intersectionality to life
 LISTEN SUBSCRIBE JOIN US

UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW63 2019

A record number of around 5000 women and men representing civil society representatives along with some 2000 delegates from governments attended this year's CSW, the UN's largest gathering on women's rights issues.

The problem of visa denials continued this year; 980 signatures against the denial of visas were collected during CSW63 including IAW's signature and a petition was delivered to Cherith Norman Chalet, US Ambassador.

After two weeks of intense dialogue, the [63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW63) concluded on 22 March 2019 in New York. The Executive Director of UN Women, which serves as the CSW Secretariat, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said: "This annual gathering has never been bigger nor more significant for the women and girls of the world. The Commission's recommendations pave the way for governments to engage and invest differently; involving women in policy dialogue and targeting initiatives that go to the heart of the largest barriers to the empowerment and voice of women and girls."

Key recommendations from the Agreed Conclusions include the following:

- Invest in social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure to support the productivity of women's work, including in the informal economy;
- Ensure that progress in women's access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure is not undermined by budget cuts and austerity measures, and levels of protection previously achieved are not reversed;
- Build on multilateral commitments to gender equality, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), to strengthen access to social protection, public services and infrastructure for all women and girls;
- Recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work by ensuring access to social protection for unpaid caregivers of all ages, including coverage for health care and pensions;
- Scale up investment in quality public care services that are affordable and gender-responsive;
- Identify and remove barriers to women's and girls' access to public services, such as physical

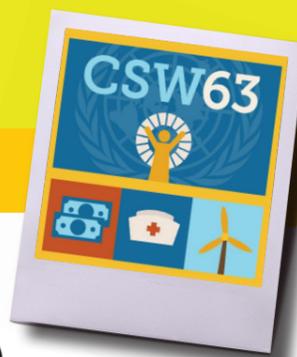
distance, lack of information and decision-making power, stigma and discrimination;

- Guarantee the availability of safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including for menstrual hygiene, in homes, schools, refugee camps and other public places;
- Ensure that transport policies and planning are sustainable, accessible, affordable, safe and gender-responsive, taking into account the different needs of women and men, and adapted to be used by persons with disabilities and older persons;
- Promote the full and equal participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in policy dialogues and decision-making relating to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure;
- Strongly condemn the impunity and lack of accountability rooted in historical and structural inequality that accompanies pervasive violence against women.

Comments from IAW President Joanna Manganara

During negotiations on the text of the Agreed Conclusions the US continued, as it did in the last two years, to undermine common international goals like those around reproductive rights, healthcare, climate change and family planning. A contentious issue was language on family. The US aligned itself with countries such as Poland, Hungary, Russia, some Gulf countries, Iraq, Malaysia, and some conservative African countries.

Protecting women's rights against this alliance were long time supporters of multilateral democracy such as Canada, Mexico, the European Union, and the Caribbean Latin America region. Africa remained a regional supporter of the rights of women. China waited until the document was approved to disengage itself from language around human rights, in particular, the rights of women human rights defenders. The Vice Chair of the session Ambassador Koki Muli Grignon from Kenya, who also facilitated the negotiations, publicly declared she had been cyber-bullied through a blog directed at her and her work at the CSW63.



Sustainable infrastructure, a powerful driver for gender equality

Presented by Joanna Manganara. | Parallel Event: Gender Mainstreaming in Infrastructure, Services, Social Protection | Arranged by Olufunmi Oluyede.

UN Women released last year a report called "Turning promises into actions" Gender equality in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. The report underlines that progress towards meeting the sustainable development goals for women and girls is unacceptably slow and unless progress on gender equality is significantly accelerated the global community will not be able to keep its promise for leaving no one behind.

The 2030 agenda recognizes the crucial importance of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in sustainable development (Goal 5) as essential for achieving all the interconnected goals and targets.

One way of doing that is by using infrastructure as a driver for change to improve women's lives by reducing the demands of household and care work, increase the productivity of their enterprises and enable them to move into better jobs or more profitable markets.

Infrastructure consists of high cost investments that if done well can raise economic growth, productivity and land values and contribute to poverty reduction.

Women's economic empowerment is about economic equality such as closing the gender pay gap, increasing job opportunities etc. But it is also about breaking down barriers that hold women back: from discrimination laws to unfair share of home and family care.

Empirical evidence on women's time allocation shows clearly that women bear the brunt of domestic tasks processing food crops, providing water and firewood and caring for children.

How can infrastructure enable women's economic empowerment? Infrastructure provisions can reduce the time women spend on domestic tasks and free up time for productive economic activity.

For example, mobility improvements in transportation infrastructure can have significant effects on women's physical mobility leading to higher paid jobs for women and new opportunities for business expansion.

Moreover the construction of new transport, ICT and energy facilities can create new job opportunities as for example jobs for women in the transport sector

taking on roles as bus drivers, ticket collectors and taxi drivers or in the construction business which increasingly involves women as constructors, semi-skilled and skilled workers, supervisor engineers. However, in this context women have to break through gender barriers and enter traditionally male dominated sectors.

Unsafe market spaces, transport and public spaces expose women workers and traders to gender based violence and limit their economic opportunities. The perceived and the actual risk of gender based violence have a significant impact on women's economic participation. Road, rail and port projects can do their part to narrow the gender gap by featuring well lit roads, women only carriages and resting and waiting areas.

It is important to note that infrastructure investment by itself does not result in inclusive growth. The quality and cost of access to services are critical to the potential of these investments to impact low income and marginalized groups whose members are disproportionately women.

We also have to note that most infrastructure is gender blind thus empowering men and reinforcing women's role as one which is primarily with household tasks.

In order to engender infrastructure projects women need to be part of the decision making in all phases of these projects. Giving them a voice will help to reduce gender inequality.

Women are usually at the household nexus of water, food and energy and they often know first hand about the challenges and potential solutions in these areas. So, women are the most convincing advocates for the solutions they need so they should be at the forefront of decision making in sustainable development. A precondition for engendering infrastructure projects is to amplify women's collective voice to demand access and use infrastructure and services.

The process of demanding improvements in infrastructure by low income women especially in urban areas can by itself be empowering. This is a key strategy and precondition for engendering infrastructure which can have potentially transformative impacts. At the global level we have a number of women led community driven demands



Seminar hosted by Deutscher Frauenring - Berlin 2018

*Squaring the Circle for Women,
Peace and Security*

by networks of urban poor that have been very successful in negotiating collectively with municipal authorities for improved infrastructure. They have also transformed women's involvement in municipal government processes.

We should also monitor the gender outcomes of infrastructure projects and build a database for successful gender approaches that can be replicated or scaled up. We should also elaborate and adopt outcome indicators such as income change for female workers etc.

Unfortunately, most infrastructure is seen to help women deliver outcomes that benefit their family, community and state rather than address their own individual needs. In other words, gender remains framed within an economic empowerment approach where women's work matters not for women themselves but for their ability to participate in markets. This is a pro market approach that we should reject in favor of an approach that is based on the human rights of women.

So, an important precondition for engendering infrastructure projects and facilitating access to and use of them by women is the adoption of a strategy aiming at challenging social norms that are based on gender stereotypes and influence women's ability to access and use infrastructural resources at all levels.

Another obstacle to engendering infrastructure projects is the fact that this sector is usually run by people that have technical expertise and are unfamiliar and not sensitive to gender equality or the tools used by gender equality specialists. States should undertake efforts to reconcile the two approaches.

Finally, the most important question to be asked is whether it is possible to use infrastructure as driver for change as long as neoliberal policies dominate in parts of the world. When subsidies are cut from poor and marginalized groups in rural and urban areas, when funding for social services and social infrastructure especially education and health services are cut, then we should question whether neoliberal approaches to development policies can bring about change. We should also question, whether infrastructure provisions that free up time of women in the developing world for labour force participation in the formal sector is a step forward in empowering these women.

Numerous evidence based on research demonstrates how markets themselves seem to be structured to perpetuate and exploit economic inequality. This model relies heavily on women's wage labour, especially low wage work in service and manufacturing. The reality that underlines this new model is depressed wage levels, decreased job security, declining living standards, steep rise in the number of hours worked for wages, exacerbation of the double shift and rising poverty increasingly concentrated on female headed households.

How can this process represent empowerment for women? Governments, the private sector, women's NGOs and feminist groups should work for a new development model that prioritizes people over profits. Equal societies do better on just about every available metric: health, crime rates, education etc.

Recommendations:

Governments should:

- Implement infrastructure projects to reduce the time women spend on domestic tasks and free up time for productive economic activity.
- Implement infrastructure projects that create new job opportunities and that protect women workers and traders from gender based violence.
- Engender infrastructure projects by having women participate in the decision making process in all phases of them.
- Monitor gender outcomes of infrastructure projects and adopt and implement relevant indicators.
- Elaborate infrastructure projects that look after women's unique needs and experiences.
- Implement strategies aiming at challenging social norms that are based on gender stereotypes and influence women's access and use of infrastructural resources.
- Finally Governments, the Private sector, Women's NGOs and Feminist groups should work for developmental policies that prioritize people over profits.

Welcome addresses were given by IAW members of DFR Deutscher Frauenring, FNF-Women's Network for Peace, IAW President Joanna Manganara and by video from Pramilla Patten, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The Seminar setting and perspectives

Germany was shortly to become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Public debate had gained momentum with crucial ideas, requests, efforts as well as contributions and perspectives being discussed.

As a member of the German UNSCR 1325 Women's NGO Alliance, the DFR was looking back on monitoring and consulting on the implementation of the resolution and its framework, the 2nd German National Action Plan on 1325 and was looking forward to the upcoming NAP III and concerted efforts. DFR liaised with other regional and international 1325 NGO Alliances and connected on governmental progress. DFR and FNF will continue to work with the German NGO Alliance for UNSCR 1325 in all monitoring and consultation processes, especially in the case of the new follow-up resolution which Germany had in the pipeline for the non-permanent seat in the UNSC and for other improvements. From the participants' perspective several important mechanisms are not yet in place.

A series of Panels and Speakers encouraged wide ranging discussion and conclusions. The following extracts are taken from the full report produced by DFR.

Panel: Stick to the peace objective in every situation - More women ensure more peace

Xanthe Hall, German section of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) demanded that women not only take their place in security policy, but completely change the architecture of that policy, so that peace is understood as strength, violence as weakness.

Kristina Lund, Center For Feminist Foreign Policy, Berlin (CFFP) showed that the agenda of UNSCR1325 is successfully implemented by Sweden as 'feminist' foreign policy.

Nicola Popovic, independent expert explained how close the German implementation of the 1325 Agenda is to the Swedish and Canadian 'feminist' foreign policy. Pointing to the human rights references in CEDAW, she called for more resources and better evaluation.

Some Conclusions:

- More education to promote peace; Peace conflict resolution education from an early age.
- Feminist, women's and human rights compliance in foreign policy is an attitude, too.
- The involvement of one's own state/economy in arms trade must be uncovered, stopped, changed.

Address by Parliamentary Secretary of State Caren Marks, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth: In the current German coalition agreement the agenda of WPS 1325 is considered to be a guideline, with measures and goals, in the major chapter of intersectoral equality policy. In addition, many of the national gender equality tasks aim at providing women with security. She and the ministry stand for maintaining hard won women's rights.

Panel: Peacemakers at the negotiating table - an insight into their work

Nujiyan (Hüsniye) Günay, Coordinating Member Ezidischer Frauenrat Berlin-BINEVS, explained the Ezidi culture, history and religion, before presenting their work with the survivors of the femicide/genocide in 2014 by ISIS.

Dr. Maria Al Abdeh, Women Now For Development, Syria reported on the on the Women's Advisory Group in the Geneva negotiations on Syria and listed criticisms of the Board of Advisers:



No transparency in the selection process (of women); Lack of cooperation of the counselors and the local activists; Important criteria such as independence and human rights principles were ignored in the selection of women from different conflict parties. The UN continued to restrict the role of women to consultation (not negotiation).

Dr. E. Biran Mertan and Dr. Maria Hadjipavlou, Gender Advisory Team (GAT), Cyprus: The strength of GAT's Cypriot approach lies in its research and analysis-based, structurally-planned approach of attending to the process despite the large marginalization of women in the process.

Some Conclusions:

- Women from conflicts claim UNSCR 1325 which has resulted in an 'approach of women' to peace tables; but they should participate much more comprehensively.
- The UN is expected to put even more pressure on negotiators to bring women from all civil society groups to the negotiating tables.
- Work is still necessary to demand the legal right to enforce the criticism of the women involved, to reshape the peace process accordingly.

After the panel woman participants could talk to the peacemakers at "peace tables" in line with World Café methodology.

Some comments:

- women are gaining more and more experience, interacting internationally, advising each other, learning and expanding the agenda; they dare to demand more.
- women want to let the knowledge of civil society decide, not the warlords and those who uphold the old system of wars; they want progressive governments and for the UN to dare more, to consult them.
- consistent justice and education remain important factors.

Panel: A Human Right in its infancy

The history and processes of achieving human rights with strong influence from women since the end of the 19th century, were presented by Dr. Wolfgang S. Heinz, German Institute for Human Rights; Rosy Weiss, former IAW President, longtime leader of the IAW Peace Commission and Heide Schütz, Chairperson FNF and Convener of the IAW Peace Commission.

Some conclusions:

- the human right to peace is not widely known and must be brought before governments.
- all women's rights NGOs can bring it to the human rights dialogues before CEDAW by inserting it into Alternative reports, and by encouraging others to do so.
- peace education should include recognition of colonization, occupation, ongoing economic exploitation that create unequal power relations.
- schoolbooks, archives, museums, general information, education must include more content.

Panel: Establishing Human Security through the IAW project "Water and Pads for schoolgirls" (see details on IAW website)

Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa (DR Congo), Regional Vice President IAW, Ursula Nakamura, IAW Representative at WHO and Gudrun Haupter, Convener of the IAW Health Commission. Ms Muyuwa had not been granted a visa despite considerable efforts by DFR. She sent a video contribution and her French address was summarised in writing in German/English.

Panel: Anchor culture of peace The status quo - where peace must be anchored

Ingeborg Breines, Co-President International Peace Bureau, Norway introduced the UN's core concept and the work and promotion of UNESCO; this is also what the Beijing PfA and Declaration had in mind; then, in 2000 the enactment of the 1325, significantly influenced by women's NGOs.

Monique Bouaziz, IAW representative to UNESCO, France explained how NGO representatives in Paris implemented projects at UNESCO and stimulated similar ones close to the needs of people; what peace is and how it can be consolidated through reconciliation.

Xenia Kellner, AGORA - a Young Feminist in the European Women's Lobby (EWL) spoke about intergenerational dialogues among women and movements being in demand and the need to build on and pass on experiences. Young women seek connection, they do not want to invent everything, they like to accelerated processes. She recommended making use of mediators in NGOs who can positively guide the dialogues within NGOs, try to lessen conflicts between older and younger women in organisations and solve them. The inclusion of young women in traditional NGOs needs to be guided; mediators and mentors can level the field to work with them in organizational cultures; long term members should be more open to accept new members/young women as members and trust them to take responsibility.

Workshops provided the opportunity to explore and expand on the matters arising from the Panels and a Plenary presentation. A final session confirmed the need for a wide program to strengthen the culture of peace.

A final session Culture of Peace - More Than Just a Protest drew up a list of the main findings.

The seminar ended with a conclusive insight into the Indian tradition of peace culture and philosophy and an undertaking from the All India Women's Conference to hold a peace conference soon drawing on the wealth of information received during the seminar.

A final comment, looking at the Ezidi women's exhibition which included interviews of survivors and hearing their wishes for a peaceful future, was how this demonstrates a need to eliminate war and terror, its causes and consequences and the global role of women is in peacemaking. It also shows how urgently the protection, the solidarity of all entities and stakeholders of the International Community is requested, how deeply women are convinced that the current wars and crises must be brought to an end in order to secure and protect life, the planet and civilization by a culture of peace.

**Sustainable peace
needs women's
leadership and
representation
at all levels of
decision-making.**



un.org





In October 2014, Sweden became the first country in the world to launch a feminist foreign policy. In August 2018, Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström presented a handbook on this policy.

“In a worsening climate where human rights and women’s and girls’ rights are increasingly questioned and threatened, and in a world of shrinking democratic space, a feminist foreign policy is needed more than ever. I hope this handbook can be of help along the way for all of us who want to continue fighting for a gender-equal world,” says Ms Wallström.

The handbook:

- shares the lessons and examples of four years of feminist foreign policy. At the same time, it describes just a small sample of all experiences, not least because the work is constantly evolving.
- Is intended to support the Swedish Foreign Service, central government administration and society in general. It is also expected to attract an international readership, since there is major international interest in the policy.
- Answers many of the questions about how Sweden has worked on developing and implementing the feminist foreign policy, and is structured to be relevant to anyone working multilaterally, bilaterally or on changing social norms in general.

PowerPoint presentation by Christina Noble Knight to IAW Board meeting in Berlin 2018

Sweden decided that it needed to do something to promote feminist policies to strengthen the rights of all women and girls, putting out a handbook full of good examples, available on the website in English.

Six Objectives: 1. Full Enjoyment of Human Rights. 2. Freedom from physical, mental and sexual violence for all women and girls. 3. Participation of women and girls in preventing and resolving conflicts and post-conflict peace-building. 4. Political participation and influence of women and girls in all areas of society (like climate). 5. Full enjoyment of economic rights and empowerment of all women and girls (especially education and "he for she" campaign). 6. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls (midwife training).

A link is available: www.government.se/reports/20018/08/handbook-swedens-feminist-foreign-policy/.

Rosy Weiss and Anje Wiersinga recommended that the Board approve suggesting that all IAW members approach their foreign ministers to implement similar policies.

This was supported unanimously on a show of hands.

This handbook should be a resource for international work relating to gender equality and all women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights. It contains a selection of methods and experiences that can provide examples and inspiration for further work of the Swedish Foreign Service and other parts of the civil service and society as a whole. The handbook also describes the first four years of working with a feminist foreign policy. Thereby, it responds to the considerable national and international interest in this policy.

Printed on a carrybag at DFR Seminar



In 1998 during the IAW International Meeting in Malmö, Sweden, a working group met to work on the idea of an "electronic Newsletter". The group was initiated by Cock Kerling and Joke Sebus, both from the Netherlands, and Lene Pind from Denmark. Using a computer, the group made a presentation to the Board about the proposed Newsletter and also about developing an IAW website. At that time not many members could clearly understand what was being proposed.

During the meeting, Joke collected emails from those in attendance and on her return home immediately started to build a file of email addresses of IAW members and supporters. This was still a fairly new form of communication for many people.

Joke began producing monthly newsletters, which she circulated by email. All these can be read on the IAW website under Publications. From 1998 to 2013 Joke produced and circulated a newsletter each month and, most importantly, carefully guarded the email details of all IAW members. She was supported by a small editorial group that provided advice and proof reading which Joke described as "correcting my Dutchy English". During the first decade or so in the 2000s Joke and Priscilla collaborated with various members on producing occasional Action Sheets, News Flashes and Talking Points.

Joke gave much of her time to researching and reading, including input from many IAW members, and pulling everything together to produce an informative and entertaining newsletter. Now officially on record, they add valuable history to the IAW archives. This was clearly a labour of love from Joke and IAW expresses sincere thanks for her initiative and commitment to this great achievement of which she can be justly proud.

Joke decided that it was time to pass the task on and in 2014 Lene Pind took over as editor supported by an editorial committee. Joke continued as the conscientious guardian of the emails and distributor of the Newsletter but not long ago asked to be relieved of the job. This was ideal timing as the IAW database was set up and able to be used for the distribution of IAW publications, ensuring that the Newsletter will continue to inform and bring interesting news to all IAW members and supporters.





International Women's NEWS

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In publication since 1906

Journal of the International Alliance of Women

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