



*IFUW Update- January 09 2013*

## **Activity Report From Turkish Association of University Women**



TAUW would like to share some activity news with the IFUW and the NFAs. In the aftermath of its usual Inter-Branch Meeting in Adana on 16-17 November 2012, with the participation of representatives from 21 branches, the TAUW Board took the decision to launch a campaign: **“Call against the Child Brides”** on the 25 of November 2012 in order to raise awareness and to invite MP to actively intervene on this sensitive issue.

The Call was delivered by almost all the branches on the 25<sup>th</sup> November by press releases or announcements which attracted, and continue to attract, the attention of the public as well as the media. The Call was published in full text in two major newspapers and made the news on the front page on many other national or local printed media. Some TV channels invited President Nazan Moroglu for interviews on this matter. In various cities TAUW branches organized Conferences to discuss the impact of “Child Marriage” from Educational, Sociological, Economical and Human Rights perspectives. Two women MP took the issue to the Parliamentary Platform and prepared an Inquiry on this subject.

**The extensive response to our Campaign** reiterates the gravity of this problem. Early marriage steals the childhood of girls, robs from them the very basic right to Education and often is the cause of many health issues due to early pregnancies. **Education for girls is one of the best strategies for protecting girls against child marriage.**

We are very hopeful that this campaign will inspire lawmakers to enforce the legislation that has already established the age of marriage as 18 according to the CEDAW.

We also hope that NFAs all over the world focus on this burning issue and support this meaningful Campaign.

**Ayden BİRERDİNÇ, member IFUW-SWC & Nazan MOROĞLU, President TAUW**

# NFA News and Announcements

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## ‘90th Anniversary Dr Agnes Bennett Award’



The New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW), Wellington Branch, presents the 90th Anniversary Commemoration Award of \$10,000 to promote Women in Governance Roles.

The Wellington Branch of the NZFGW and its Charitable Trust awarded the ‘90th Anniversary Dr Agnes Bennett Award’ to Leigh Pearson to pursue further studies in Board Governance. The Wellington Branch campaigns to have more women in the nation's boardrooms and has dedicated this special prize named in honour of the branches first President, Dr. Agnes Bennett.

The President of the Wellington Branch, Joy Dunsheath, can't think of a better person to receive the award than Leigh Pearson, well known to New Zealanders as a leading political journalist between 1992 and 1999.

Ms Dunsheath says, “The Federation of Graduate Women enthusiastically supports gender diversity in the boardroom. Statistics tell us only 11% of the 574 listed board positions on the NZX are held by women, while women make up less than 10% of the top NZX company directors” and is delighted that Dr Hope, a practising woman doctor and the Current Board Chair, has agreed to present this award on the steps of the old Wellington Hospital where Dr Bennett worked in the first half of the twentieth century.

“This continuity of women supporting women to achieve at a high level is very gratifying and embodies the work the Wellington Branch has done over the past 90 years and to which it is committed to carry on into the future. We look to women like Dr Hope and Leigh Pearson to continue to inspire others.”



*from left to right –Leigh Pearson, Dr Virginia Hope, Joy Dunsheath*

## **Claire Fulcher, Esther Scher and Dr. Eva Tongue**

It is with great sadness that we must report that Claire Fulcher, and Esther Scher, (VGIF Leaders) and IFUW Representative Vienna Dr. Eva Tongue have passed away at the end of 2012.

Claire was an IFUW Board Member in the 1980-1983 triennium and served as second Vice President, as well as IFUW liaison to the United Nations in New York. She was also a VGIF Board member and served for more than 30 years as the international representative for the Business and Professional Women. She passed away on November 15th 2012.

Esther was an active member of AAUW and WG-USA and a member of the VGIF Membership and Development Committees. She passed away on November 14h 2012.

Dr. Eva Tongue represented IFUW at the UN Centre in Vienna for many years. She was an ardent advocate for NGO rights, and a dedicated diplomat, earning the respect of all who knew her. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. She passed away on November 7h 2012.

They will be sadly missed by all.

## **Aloisea Inyumba**

In addition we would like to share with you the loss in December of Aloisea Inyumba. Aloisea was a founding member and strong supporter of the Rwandan Association of University Women and the establishment and development of the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development in Rwanda.

Aloisea was Rwanda's Minister for Gender and Family Promotion since May 2011. She served as a Senator in the National Senate of Rwanda from 2004 on two committees: Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Security Committee and Political Affairs and Good Governance Committee. Aloisea also served as the first Minister of Gender and Social Affairs from 1994 to 1999. She is survived by her husband and two children.

**Happy New Year**

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