



IFUW Update – 08 October 2013



IFUW news

Documents from the 31st Triennial Conference (Istanbul, Turkey)

The policy resolutions 2013 are now available on the public website. There is a link at the bottom of the homepage as well as on the Login page of the members area.

<http://www.ifuw.org/what/advocacy/resolutions/year/>

The final participants list is also available on the IFUW and the Turkish Association of University Women's (TUKD) websites:

http://ifuw.org/members_new/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2013-09-10-Final-IFUW-2013-Participant-List.pdf

<http://www.tukd.org.tr/galeri.asp>

IFUW Day 2014 theme extended

The IFUW Board has taken up a member suggestion to extend the theme of the 2014 IFUW Day to: "Education for women and children in prison and detention, and in refugee camps." Material will be provided for NFAs in the members section of the website by the end of January.

NFA news

The Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG) pushes boundaries for women and girls pursuing education and employment in male dominated fields. FNU just had a very successful quiz night and, through the generous donation of business communities and individuals who purchased the quiz tickets, was able to raise well over FJ\$6,000. This was their main annual fundraising event and all proceeds will go towards their scholarship fund. They are currently sponsoring Ms. Tina Jackson who is studying mechanical engineering at the Fiji National University (FNU) in Nadi.

The Thai Association of University Women (TAUW) held a half-day seminar for high school girls on how to cope with life as a teenager. There were 300 girls in attendance where they discussed the Do's and Don'ts in their lives. TAUW tries to have activities that support IFUW programmes.

The University Women's Association of Calcutta, a local chapter of the Indian Federation of University Women Association (IFUWA) organised an evening of lively discussion on 'The role of Education in controlling violence on women in present society'. Three young students belonging to the Masters Programme in English Literature voiced their opinions: one of the presenters was a young man who vehemently opposed the atrocities on women and appealed to the attending members in the gathering to join hands in educating every stratum of Indian society as a strategy to become free from those cultural blocks which are one of the root causes of violence on women. The women presenters interacted and discussed the need for a holistic education that can cleanse society from such maladies.

International seminar in Mexico

Our Mexican colleagues at FEMU, invite members to participate in an international seminar "Por la descriminalización de las mujeres en México", on 28-29 November 2013 in Villahermosa, Tabasco. Calls for papers are open until Friday 11 October. Contact FEMU by telephone on +52 (55) 5622-0618 or by email on femumexico@gmail.com or femumex@yahoo.com.mx

KAF at the Swedish Book Fair

Our Swedish colleagues at KAF made a 15-minute presentation at the Swedish Book Fair in Gothenburg 25-29 September at the National Swedish Gender Secretariat's booth. Swedish Minister of Gender and Equality, Maria Arnholm, accepted our brochure and from now on she will be invited to all KAF member meetings.

Advocacy

New UN Women chief makes education top priority

The new head of the United Nations (UN) women's rights agency, UN Women, says girls' access to education will be a top priority in the coming years, but warned that the body's limited budget was "the elephant in the room". Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, a former Deputy President of South Africa, also said she wanted closer collaboration with other UN agencies to achieve progress on crucial issues including reproductive health and economic empowerment.

"In the realm of things we need to do (...) I look at education as one of the founding services that all women and girls need to access in order for us to make a difference," the new [UN Women](#) Executive Director said in her first media briefing.

<http://www.trust.org/item/20130913141709-t0j8n/?source=shem>

States adopt first ever resolution on child, early and forced marriage at Human Rights Council

The resolution is supported by a cross-regional group of over 100 countries, including countries with high

rates of child marriage. The resolution stresses the need to include child, early and forced marriage in post-2015 international development agenda.

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/states-adopt-first-ever-resolution-on-child-marriage-at-human-rights-council/>

Resolution: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/HRC-resolution-on-child-early-and-forced-marriage-ENG.pdf>

Victory for women in Rwandan elections

Parliamentary elections have handed women an overwhelming majority in Rwanda's Parliament, an unprecedented 64 per cent of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Women will occupy 51 out of the 80 seats in the Lower House.

Rwanda remains the only country in the world with a female-dominated parliament, having first achieved the feat in the 2008 polls when women took up 56 per cent representation in the House of Representatives.

Overall, women now constitute 58 per cent of Rwanda's bicameral parliament.

Worldwide, the average women representation in the Lower House stands at 21.3 per cent, 18.8 per cent in the Upper House (Senate) and 20.9 in both Houses, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union figures released on July 1, 2013.

Women make up more than one-third of Zimbabwe's new Parliament

Fanny Chirisa was among the 124 women sworn-in on 3 September as new Members of Parliament (MPs) in the 8th Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe. A long-time women's activist, she said she hopes to use her knowledge and experience to familiarise other MPs with the gender equality and women's rights priorities that will make a difference to women's lives.

[Read more](#)

Join our LinkedIn discussion: Should states introduce mandatory gender quotas for party election lists?

Swiss develop new app to strengthen women's human rights

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) have developed a new app for smart phones and tablets to make the texts and content of international agreements, UN resolutions and other documents relating to women's human rights more easily accessible.

The app contains a database with a large number of key texts on this topic. The app's search function allows users to quickly find the texts of international conventions, UN resolutions, declarations and other documents relating to various women's human rights and gender issues: from early marriage, to sexual violence to the economic empowerment of women. The database not only includes documents negotiated and adopted in recent decades within the UN system but also regional instruments. To download: <http://www.admin.ch/aktuell/00089/index.html?lang=en&msg-id=50355>

Task force calls for action to ensure the world's children are learning

As debate intensifies over post-2015 development goals, a new report from the Learning Metrics Task Force presents a roadmap to put learning on the agenda and track the outcomes of the world's children and youth in order to help improve education quality for all. Read more at:

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/task_force_calls_for_action_to_ensure_the_worlds_children_are_learning/

UN Women and Canada launch Global Knowledge platform to galvanise women's economic empowerment

This open online platform seeks to re-vitalise women's economic empowerment by building connections, and bringing together people in need with those who have resources.

Women make significant contributions to the economy in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs and employees, and by undertaking the bulk of unpaid care work at home. Of those employed, the majority is in informal and vulnerable employment, with nearly two-thirds of women largely outside the protection of the law in 2011. The Knowledge Gateway was triggered by the growing evidence that investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. (www.empowerwomen.org)

<http://www.empowerwomen.org/news/global-knowledge-platform-launched-to-galvanize-womens-economic-empowerment>

Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP)

To follow up on IFUW 's resolution (www.ifuw.org/posts/resolutions/protection-of-women-and-children-in-war-zones-through-unarmed-civilian-peacekeeping-ucp-2013-no-11/) on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP) as one means of implementing the UN Resolutions on women, peace and security, NFAs are encouraged to urge their governments to implement UCP as part of their defense strategies.

This methodology has been successfully used in Sri Lanka, Philippines, the South Caucasus and South Sudan during the past ten years, primarily by the organisation Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP). Teams of women and men from all over the globe are highly trained before going into the war-torn areas to live, work and train the local people in the methodology.

Last summer, at the invitation of Syrian civilians not involved in the violence but highly impacted by that civil war, the Nonviolent Peaceforce conducted protection training. After a recent presentation by one of the women most recently returning as a peacekeeper in South Sudan, a Chicago-based journalist wrote this column describing how the world is overlooking another option besides guns and diplomacy, especially in the current situation in Syria.

<http://commonwonders.com/world/building-real-peace/>

<http://www.ifuw.org/posts/resolutions/protection-of-women-and-children-in-war-zones-through-unarmed-civilian-peacekeeping-ucp-2013-no-11/>

Fellowships and calls for proposals

UNESCO Mobile Learning Week, 17-21 February 2014

UNESCO is currently inviting proposals to present at [Mobile Learning Week 2014](#) (MLW). This flagship event will be hosted at the organisation's headquarters in Paris, France from 17 to 21 February 2014. Proposals are due 25 October 2013, follow the link above for the appropriate online proposal forms.

Scholarship Alert - September 2013

The Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF) is providing scholarships to enable more Australians to share the exciting experience of a Stanford education for the benefit of the Australian community. For more information on scholarships in postgraduate study, social leadership, executive leadership, and other subjects, for short courses and residential study, please visit: www.scholarships.org.au

Other information and events

International Day of the Girl – 11 October 2013

Intel has created an International Day of the Girl (IDG) toolkit. Click through to make your mark. <http://10x10act.org/idg/toolkit/>

- [30 September – 18 October: CEDAW](#)
- [11 October](#): International Day of the Girl Child
- [21 October - 1 November: Universal Periodic Review Session 17](#)
(**Mexico**: 23 October - 9.00 - 12.30 ; **Nigeria** : 22 October - 14.30 - 18.00 : <http://www.upr-info.org/-Session-17-.html>)
- [17 November: International Students' Day](#)
- [10 December: Human Rights Day](#)
- [Feb-March 2014: Human Rights Council](#)



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