



# IFUW in review 2010 - 2013

An active network of graduate women

*Empowering women and girls through lifelong education*



**International  
Federation of  
University Women**

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EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH LIFELONG EDUCATION

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# Introduction



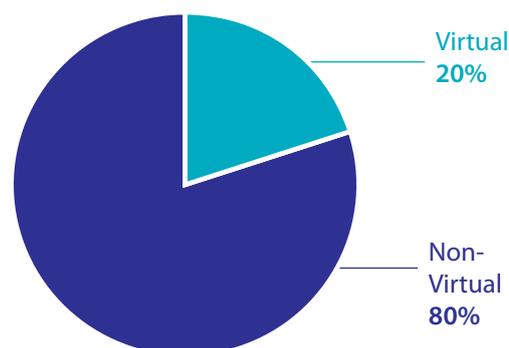
This publication is intended as a showcase to illustrate the dynamism and achievements over the period 2010-2013 of some member federations and associations of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). Some national federations and associations (NFAs) span large geographies, have several branches and many members.

Despite what all the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the world are experiencing, IFUW NFAs have resisted a world economic crisis, and the difficulty of recruiting new members and of retaining older members. The majority of NFAs portrayed in this document have maintained their activities and pushed forward on programmes geared to support IFUW's mission, namely to:

- promote lifelong education for women and girls; promote international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all, irrespective of their age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender and sexual orientation or other status; advocate for the advancement of the status of women and girls; and
- encourage and enable women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life.

Some organisations have chosen to have a virtual office, outsourced to external suppliers. Others have maintained a central office.

Virtual or Non-Virtual NFAs



Many NFAs have exchanged with others within the IFUW network, with visits, shared programmes, twinning and joint advocacy objectives. All have an internet presence of some kind and many are using e-mailing, blogging and social media to get their messages out and to attract younger members.



## ARGENTINA

THE FEDERACIÓN ARGENTINA DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS (FAMU) membership has remained stable over the past few years. During the triennium, FAMU focused its activity on the education of the girl child and women, and on the eradication of domestic violence. The federation has been active in constituting a bibliography of famous women, as well as running a radio competition that asks the audience questions related to the professions of famous women. On International Women's Day (IWD), the federation held events to denounce women workers' conditions. FAMU collects money to assist women in their studies and to facilitate women's university careers. The organisation is successful notably in its fundraising at general interest seminars and talks, where a meal is also offered. The Argentine federation uses radio announcements, print media and television as well as web pages to publicise its work.

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## AUSTRALIA

THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (AFGW), so named since 2009, has six state and territory organisations and some 620 members. AFGW is unique in focusing on education in Australia. Two organisations within AFGW are celebrating their 90th and centenary anniversaries in 2013 and 2014, Graduate Women Western Australia and Graduate Women South Australia, with a number of celebrations and publications planned.

Successful membership events aimed at attracting new members through networking and/or social activities combined with fundraising were organised e.g. theatre parties, movie clubs, book clubs, dinner events, breakfasts, theatre and art shows. Specific membership campaigns were also developed, such as 50 under 50 in Graduate Women Queensland. Other activities include fundraising for scholarships through the regalia hire businesses in several states. Around Aus\$440,000 is provided annually for fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, prizes and other assistance. This has been in progress for more than 40 years and continues as a major area of activity and action for AFGW.

AFGW participates in women's alliances, undertaking advocacy, action and advocacy campaigns. AFGW has a national voice on women's affairs, both independently and through its membership of Security4Women Inc (eS4W) and Equality Rights Alliance (ERA). Security4Women (eS4W) (formerly Security4Women) believes that economic well-being and financial security are essential ingredients to achieving equity for women and will enable women of all ages to have an equal place in society. The ability to achieve positive economic outcomes impacts on all aspects of women's lives including family, education, health, employment, housing and personal safety and can enable women to make informed choices. The Equality Rights Alliance (ERA): Women's Voices for Gender Equality is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. It brings together 56 organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality. The Alliances were requested by the Office of Women (OfW) to work collaboratively on two projects each year and for 2011-12 these were: (a) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and (b) Taxation issues - analysis of gender issues in workforce participation, superannuation and associated taxation and transfer payments, drawing on the issues identified during previous consultations outlined in proposed reforms announced in the Government report: Australia's Future Tax System.

Furthermore, the Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet) includes active groups of graduate women in Australia (AFGW), Fiji (FAWG), New Zealand (NZFGW), Samoa (SAWG) and Tonga (ATUW), with membership interest in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. There are also individual members living and working in other nations in the Pacific region.

## AUSTRIA

The Vienna-based VERBAND DER AKADEMIKERINNEN ÖSTERREICHS (VAOE) has been focusing on advocacy work, notably to promote more possibilities for women working in universities. VAOE has carried out collaborative programmes in health and information together with "Bund österreichischer Frauenvereine". Other collaborations include research into why there are not more women in leading positions in Austria, in conjunction with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and a commercial company.

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## BANGLADESH

THE BANGLADESH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (BFUW) is associated with most of the active networks of women's development in Bangladesh. This includes the NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA Process (NCBP), a network of 526 grassroots NGOs founded in 1999 by Ms. Salma Khan, the former chair of CEDAW. Ms. Khan herself, a life member of BFUW, has been active in helping the President to raise the profile of BFUW among grassroots women's organisations. BFUW is also associated with the Bangladesh Social Action Committee, an alliance of feminist organisations recently formed to raise women's voices against gender discrimination in politics, society and even potentially in policy. BFUW is also associated with Soroptimist International Club of Dhaka, Project Five-O, and Dhaka Business and Professional Women's Club.

BFUW established the University Women's Federation College in 1965. The College secured the highest position in the national merit list in the Higher Secondary Certificate Exam in the Commerce Group. The college students constitute a non-voting proportion of BFUW's 500 members and regularly participate in BFUW activities. BFUW has seen the growth of its Chittagong branch, one of the two branches situated outside the capital, Dhaka. BFUW organised four formal seminars on different aspects on Women and Empowerment:

- Creating Awareness on HIV/Aids
- Education - the important tool of empowerment
- Gender Discrimination and its Effect On Women
- Violence against Women.

BFUW had two other seminars during the triennium: The contribution of women in the country's "War Of Liberation" in 1971 and the contribution of women, particularly the garment workers, to the economy of Bangladesh.

The group observed International Women's Day by organising seminars and a rally, and participated in One Billion Rising (OBR) on February 14th, 2013. The issues of rape, Eve teasing and sexual harassment were addressed in joint meetings and rallies with OBR South Asia.

BFUW submitted a charter to the Government of Bangladesh asking for the complete ratification of CEDAW and requesting that the National Action Plan work actively toward the elimination of gender discrimination. A memorandum demanding proper gender budgeting was also submitted to the government.

The most important BFUW project, financed by a BRPID Grant from IFUW, has been the running of a literacy project for street children in Agargaon, Dhaka. On IFUW Day, the federation invited ten women garment factory workers to a celebration and donated four sewing machines to them. In addition, BFUW is going to start a new project, "Older women and their health care services", a series of lectures for a month.

## BULGARIA

THE BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (BAUW) focuses its activity on gender education in higher institutions, gendered forms of history, gender politics and the politics of popular culture, as well as inequality of women's positions in academia.

Together with the Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW) and the Nederlandse Vereniging van Vrouwen mit Hogere Opleiding (VVAO), the 20 year-old group planned, designed and submitted research projects on violence and on a travelling women's museum respectively. BAUW also participated in the FRAGEN Project 2011, a European virtual library of women's/feminist books or gender research. As a result, 10 major books in Bulgarian can be accessed for free and there is a greater visibility of women's issues.

The organisation runs an annual students' essay competition on women's history, with modest awards. The initiative makes students more knowledgeable about the role of women in Bulgarian or world history.

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## CANADA

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CFUW) built on its communication tools; updated its website; streamlined its mailing procedures; strengthened its Club communication methods; rebuilt its database and created useful materials that linked Clubs to user-friendly information.

At the international level, CFUW focused on several areas:

- Education, including Financial Literacy, and Access to Education for Aboriginal Girls
- Equality rights for women and girls
- The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- Follow-up on the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1882 and 1888 and membership in the new Women Peace and Security Network (Canada) to monitor the National Action Plan
- Millennium Development Goals especially Goal 6 on Reproductive Health, Health Care and Health services
- Violence Against Women, especially Non-state actor torture; prostitution – the Nordic Model; gun control advocacy
- Afghan women – education and personal security
- UNSCR 1325 and CFUW's membership in the new Women Peace and Security Network.

The group has met with members of government and with the official opposition on a number of areas that relate to IFUW/CFUW.

National advocacy has focused on the production of "kits" to involve Clubs in issues at the local level. Key issues that CFUW has addressed were:

- Homelessness/housing
- Access to medicine reform (overseas drugs regime)
- Violence Against Women
- Child Care
- Climate Change

- International Women's Day in the capital and around the country
- Contributions to 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women
- Vigil on December 6 Against Violence Against Women
- Women's World's Health Workshop on Maternal Health
- CSW summaries
- Prostitution group – VAW parallel event at Women's World and CSW 57
- NSAT – parallel events at CSW 56 and 57, oral statement, written statement, CAT statement
- Afghan group – education – fundraising
- Revised Governance structure - 2010
- New Constitution and Bylaws – 2012.

CFUW is also very active at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, sending a yearly delegation to New York. CFUW holds information sessions and parallel events for delegates and interacts with government and caucuses at the CSW, where 16 Canadian delegates were present in 2013.

CFUW members continue to contribute to the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Graduate Women chaired by Marion Ennis and have generously contributed to the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). During this triennium CFUW worked to bring about twinning and cooperation with Women Graduates USA. Other groups that CFUW has contacts with include the National Council of Women, Habitat for Humanity, Grandmothers to Grandmothers, CARE Canada, the YWCA, and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons.

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## CROATIA

THE CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CAUW) boasts two males among its 15 members and has had to face new and unfavourable social and financial circumstances in the last triennium. The association has benefited from the support of other IFUW members through contacts by e-mail and two visits of IFUW members from Great Britain and the Netherlands to Croatia.

CAUW's main programme themes are connected with child and women victims of war in Croatia, notably children and women mine victims, which was part of the historical basis of the high reputation earned by CAUW's work, giving it visibility and recognition in the country.

After the Conference Ljudska prava žena/Women's Human Rights, organised by the Institute Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, the book by the same name was published. IFUW Past President Elizabeth Poskitt read her paper. Both her article and Jelka Vince Pallua's article, dedicated to the topic of women and education, were included in a book.

CAUW collaborated closely with non-governmental organisation Žene u domovinskom ratu/Women in the War against Croatia.

## CYPRUS

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (KTUKD) runs a Mothers' Centre in Nicosia (NMC). NMC serves to train over 150 women to produce and increase capacity and learn new skills with the help of volunteer teachers. Empowering women and helping immigrant women to integrate into society has a strong effect on the other family members, especially children.

The Leadership in Volunteer Organisation workshop, organised by the VVAO with the cooperation of UWE in Amsterdam, was one of the important sources that they used to build their strategies. Methodologies such as SWOT and others were used to profile the status of the NGO.



KTUKD publishes books, including one entitled "Turkish Cypriot Women sold to Arabs", which was translated by KTUKD and funded by the Severis Foundation. KTUKD engages in cooperative work with governmental organisations, providing opportunities for members to meet with important policy makers. A key focus of the organisation is family law, notably to empower women in decision-making mechanisms. Reconciliation of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities is also a high priority. International Women's Day is celebrated according to the need or theme of the year.

KTUKD has a protocol agreement with SOS, an international organisation that helps the development of poor children.

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## EGYPT

With its 105 members, THE EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (EAUW) has been struggling to work in a situation of unprecedented political instability, which was reflected in the 2010-2013 Triennium Programme. Nevertheless, EAUW carried out its annual fair of Members' Art Products and the Cairo branch celebrated its 60th anniversary in March 2013.



In 2011, the Cairo branch organised several meetings and seminars, including a meeting with Revolution Youth and two seminars, one on "Security Empowerment" and one on the "Political Situation in Egypt", where the first Egyptian woman judge, Dr. Tahany El-Gebaly, spoke. In 2012, a seminar on "The Modern Civil Country" was organised. The meetings and seminars were usually attended by 20–30 members.



The Alexandria branch pursued its annual projects, namely the "Entelaqa" Project with Shell Company for Small Projects, and the Illiteracy Eradication in Poor Areas, with Caritas.

*60th anniversary celebration in Cairo*

## EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, **THE ASOCIACIÓN DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS DE EL SALVADOR (AMUS)** has attracted new members through activities such as colloquia. The main area of focus is education, with Educational Circles for children, Colloquia for Academic University Women, and education workshops in oral health and general medical problems directed to children and women from marginal zones near AMUS headquarters. AMUS, which celebrated its 60th anniversary, works closely with the government through the Ministry of Education and the Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia (CONNA). In 2012, AMUS worked in the creation of bylaws of child and teenager protection law (LEPINA) with the Minister of Education and CONNA. AMUS has extended services in the polyclinics in which it is involved, with medical specialties like cardiology, dermatology, gynaecology and paediatrics, notably serving the Virgen de Guadalupe parish. AMUS has participated in seminars run by the Gloria Kriete foundation, and is supported by the Albert Einstein University. At the University of El Salvador, AMUS organised a Colloquium on the empowerment of university women. On International Women's Day 2012, a workshop was held in Costa Rica during the IXth Federación Centralamericana de Mujeres Universitarias (FECAMU) Convention, complete with a lecture about the situation of university women in Central America.



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## ENGLAND AND WALES

During this triennium, **THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (BFWG)** celebrated 100 years of giving scholarships, and indeed attributed over £525,000 in academic awards, scholarships, funds for women graduates, foundation grants and emergency grants in the last three years. This history is recounted in "A century of giving", a booklet and DVD by Susan Miles to tell the story of BFWG Academic awards from the first one given to Caroline Spurgeon to the present day.

BFWG worked on improving numeracy and financial literacy, and held a seminar in the House of Lords, Westminster, entitled "Financial literacy in education - helping the next generation". Baroness Vivien Stern CBE sponsored the day, which was well attended. As student fees are a contentious issue in England, BFWG has been looking at ways of helping the next generation to understand finances. Members were asked to contact their MPs to ask questions on numeracy in schools e.g. how many boys and girls undertook maths as a subject at A level. BFWG also worked with the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme of numeracy and women.

Several seminars were organised on themes such as bioethics, human trafficking, female leadership in higher education, higher university fees, women in leadership roles in education, the legal framework and the position of women.

"The Sybil Campbell Collection" library was moved to the University of Winchester, where it will be housed and catalogued following the demise of the Women's Library in London. On International Women's Day in 2013, Prof. Cynthia Burek gave a key note speech on the public perception of women in science across Europe at the University of Keele. The Canterbury group had a coffee morning to raise money for BRPID on International Women's Day in 2013.

## FIJI

THE FIJI ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (FAWG) is very active, running quiz nights, workshops on Multigenerational Leadership and Training, and Gender, as well as a successful Movie Premiere of 'I Don't Know How She Does It', starring Sarah Jessica Parker. The turnout was overwhelming: people came from NGOs, High Commissions, Embassies, Government departments and elsewhere. Part of the money raised went to FAWG's contribution towards the Kate MacPherson scholarship and FAWG's own scholarship, which pays for the tuition fees of selected young women studying in non-traditional fields at the Fiji National University (FNU).

The Advocacy Committee looked at gender awareness campaign/ads regarding equal work. For the Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG), the celebration of International Women's Day continues year after year. For the commemoration of the International Women's Day Centenary (1911-2011), FAWG organised the first Career Talk Series with a session on Self and Career Exploration. The series is specifically targeted to graduating women and showing them their options, opportunities and possibilities before and after graduation.

Dr Alison Haynes, a senior member of FAWG, launched a booklet funded by IUCN on mangroves and marine life titled "Life on Fiji's Mangrove Trees". FAWG was acknowledged in the booklet, which was distributed free of charge to a number of schools throughout Fiji.

FAWG luncheons were held on Health Education in Motion, Education for Empowerment and Leadership and Power of Education in Effecting Change Among Women.



*FAWG Young Members – Senimili Kamikamica (CIR), Charlotte Taylor (FAWG Secretary), Marita Manley and Anju Mangal (Young Members Core Group)*

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## FINLAND

The number of members of THE FINNISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (FFUW) has started to grow again after many years of decreasing numbers. In 2013, two new local branches were established, bringing the total number of branches to 21.

FFUW is active in University Women of Europe (UWE) and cooperates with sister federations in Norway and Sweden in the Women Graduates Nordic Network (KANN).

The most important occasion of the triennial period was organising the UWE Annual General Meeting and Conference in June 2012. The conference, Women and Sustainable Europe, had high level lectures and workshops and was very successful, with 170 participants. The key note speaker was former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen.





During the triennium, FFUW was active in the media, writing to editors in local papers about issues concerning young women's problems in the labour market, family allowance and other relevant subjects. A blog and Facebook were new ways to meet the members and to be visible to outsiders. As to advocacy, FFUW delivered an official opinion when university legislation was discussed, and contacted the Minister of Foreign Affairs on women's representation in the Bonn conference on Afghanistan.

Yearly national themes were determined in accordance with IFUW's work, and included Environment, University Education – a Resource in Women's Organisations, Women as Leaders and Graduate Women: a Strength of the Decision Making and Labour Market in Society. Local branches had a wide range of programmes and activities.

FFUW has, for eight years, arranged the Helvi Sipilä seminars in connection with the CSW, along with four other women's organisations.

FFUW administers a very successful network, Let's Read Together, which brings together Finnish and immigrant women. Those who are illiterate, or do not know Finnish, get help and support, and Finnish women learn to understand other cultures. This network complements official integration programmes, as it meets the needs of those who for some reason (babies, old age) cannot participate in more extensive courses. Let's Read Together is not teacher-centered tuition, but each "teacher" has 1-3 "students" with whom she studies the theme of the day. There are now about 400 "teachers" and more than 1,000 "students" who meet once a week for two hours in 70 groups. Lets Read Together gets substantial support from the Finnish Cultural Foundation, which has made it possible to employ a young graduate to work in the FFUW office as coordinator.



The FFUW members noticed that well-educated women also came to the groups, as they wanted to have a possibility to speak Finnish and meet Finnish women. Thus Auroras evenings were started by the Helsinki branch, opening a forum where educated immigrant and Finnish women meet and create networks. Finding open vacancies and learning to understand how Finnish society functions are an asset. FFUW got some support from the Finnish National Board of Education to start the Auroras activities and spread the format to other university cities. These two projects have led to several contacts with ministers and local authorities concerning problems immigrant women and girls meet in a new country. The project also opened up possibilities to be visible on TV and radio, and in magazines.



In 2012, FFUW made a very important decision. With the dividends of the investments, which it got from legacies, a young doctor was employed in FFUW office. Economically it is a very demanding solution, but functionally it seems to be excellent. With two persons now in the office, FFUW is able to serve its members much better. A positive proof is the growing number of new members.



## GERMANY

DEUTSCHER AKADEMIKERINNENBUND (DAB) celebrated several anniversaries: the 85th anniversary since its inception, the 60th anniversary since World War II, and the 25th anniversary of its working team “Women in Natural Science and Technology”.

The main programme themes for this triennium were women in leadership positions, women and economy, energy turnaround in Germany, education in the field of intercultural tension, women and technology, women and immigrants, equal pay day, women in the MINT spheres (Mathematics, Informatics, Natural science and Technology), equal opportunities for women in Germany, young migrants in Germany, migrants between the country of origin and everyday life, and factors of success to raise women's participation rate in the labour force.

DAB got a lot of exposure, including attending TV shows, making public statements in major newspapers, arranging workshops and arranging demonstrations on Equal Pay Day or on International Women's Day, and participating in research. DAB set up collaborations with other NGOs, including UN Women, Deutscher Frauenrat, Solwodi Solidarität mit Frauen in Not, Terre Des Femmes, europäische Frauenbewegung, Preis Frauen Europas, Deutscher Juristinnen Bund, Deutscher Frauenring and more besides.

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## INDIA

THE 90 YEAR OLD INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS (IFUWA) ran an active programme of events across the country, including seminars on “Women and Higher Education” in Delhi, Vadadora and Madras, as part of IFUW's focus areas. The theme of “Violence Against Women” (VAW) was explored by eminent speakers in many IFUWA events. These speakers quoted facts and figures to throw light on the issue of growing violence, citing excess exposure to violence, weakening value systems, lack of parental control, and the generation gap as the main reasons for growing violence among youth in India. The crime rate against women was growing alarmingly at five percent every year. In 97.3% cases of rape, the offenders were known to the victims. Many educated women take to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or commit suicide because of mental harassment in a strongly patriarchal society.

Under the IFUWA BRPID Project ‘Keys to Choose Learning and meaningful Career Opportunities Professional and Vocational Skills’, two workshops were conducted. The first was on “Train the Trainers”, where teachers from the schools with students from low income groups were oriented to conduct and examine aptitude tests. The second workshop was on “Counselling on career awareness options and guidance”, where the teachers were trained in their dual role of teaching and counselling. Instructors were expert counsellors from leading career guidance institutes and vocational centres.

Many workshops were organised throughout the country for various audiences on various themes: twinning partnership, human rights, suicides and youth, waste management, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and corruption in education are a few examples. Activities to help women in health issues, work and income generation took place in several centres, as did environmental awareness programmes, while a thriving social and cultural programme included performances, readings and dancing.

Approximately INR 800,000 (Euros 11,000 approx.) are disbursed annually as scholarships by IFUWA and its member associations. International Women's Day was widely celebrated. The Twinning programme was successful and IFUWA Pune ran a Leadership of Women in Higher Education Colloquium in 2012.

*Participants of the Colloquium in round table discussion*



*Twinning Partnerships: CIR Dr. Meera Bondre*



An exciting project that the IFUWA is spearheading is the building of the Working Women's Hostels, which now exist in Mumbai (1974), Bangalore (1977 and 2012), Pune (1979) and Madras (2010).



*UWA, Bangalore - "Shramanjali" WW's Hostel*



*UWA, Bangalore's Second WW's Hostel called "Sarayu"*

## IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

THE IRISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IRFUW) was founded in 1924 to promote lifelong education, to improve the status of women and girls, and to enable women to effect positive change for a peaceful and sustainable future.

There are four local branches: Queens University Belfast, QUB WGA; Dublin University (Trinity College), DU WGA; University College Dublin, UCD WGA; University College Galway, UCG WGA. A triennium meeting is held in May to elect officers, each association providing an office-bearer.

Delegates from Ireland have regularly participated at the IFUW International Conferences and UWE meetings in various venues around the world.

Each association is involved in their own areas in arranging social and cultural activities, e.g. lectures, outings to museums, galleries etc. and have book, poetry, theatre, concert and cinema clubs.

The IRFUW has run an annual Public Speaking Competition for girls under 15 years of age. The Competition aims to increase their self-confidence by encouraging them to develop a skill vital for their future participation in the life of the community.

The IRFUW is represented on advocacy groups of the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC). Topics discussed during the triennium included:

- The Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
- Women and Osteoporosis
- Women's Community and Political Participation
- Justice for Bethany Home Survivors
- Women on Boards: The Next Steps.

The WGAs host an annual seminar on a rotating basis. In 2012 the theme was "Intergenerational Solidarity: Is It Sustainable?" The seminar, which was organised by the UCD WGA, was officially opened by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ms Frances Fitzgerald TD.

UCD WGA organise an annual bridge evening and book sale, the proceeds of which goes to Ruhama (a national organisation that works with women affected by prostitution, including those trafficked for sexual exploitation) and the student welfare fund, respectively. UCS WGA sponsors a Bursary Award which is presented to the top female student in the Higher Diploma in Education.

The Government of the Republic of Ireland appointed a Constitution Convention to review eight articles of the 1937 Constitution. UCD WGA presented an oral and written submission on the topic "(iv) amending the clause on women in the home", which was accepted by the Convention.



## ISRAEL

THE ISRAEL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IAUW), based in Jerusalem, has a very successful 40 year-old scholarship programme to encourage women to complete their doctoral studies. Over the years, the Association has granted more than 500 scholarships, giving preference to women 35 years and older who have returned to complete their studies. Lately, there were also grants to three Ethiopian women and a travel grant to a young Arab woman, living near Bethlehem. The latter received special permission to participate in a course on Genetic Counselling at the Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

IAUW runs a mentoring programme with women students in the Ethiopian community, which comprises a workshop series for women graduates entering the work force, to help with confidence building, assertiveness, and time management skills. This proved very successful in helping their social integration and securing their position in the work force. It is also focusing on rebuilding membership.

IAUW organises meetings with and about leading women and their influence on society, as well as academic seminars with top scholars in their fields and well-known public personalities. Most of the seminars deal with the status of women in the country and serve as think tanks on how to make changes, as well as on historical aspects of women's role in Society. The IAUW has representatives in the Israeli Council of Women Organisations and participates in the Committee for Women's Advancement in the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset.



## JAPAN

JAPAN WAS ROCKED BY TRAGEDY WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE AND A TSUNAMI HIT THE COUNTRY IN MARCH 2011, with the concurrent nuclear disaster. That was the time, however, that [THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN \(JAUW\)](#) felt the presence of IFUW most closely. JAUW received more than 50 mails of condolence within the first few weeks from NFAs and individual members across the world. The members of the Sendai branch were cheered when they received the eight-page copies of heartfelt messages translated into Japanese.

Overseas members sent donations immediately via the Red Cross and other bodies, and some even in the name of JAUW. JAUW immediately started to raise funds and contributed one million yen to the Miyagi Prefectural Community Chest, which happened to have a JAUW member on its Board. JAUW established the 3/11 Disaster Fund to help high-schoolers to continue their education, which was warmly welcomed by local boards of education. The Special Committee of this fund worked closely with the Sendai and Miyagi Boards of Education for the selection of the scholarship students. The Hegg Hoffet Fund Committee offered help for students from the disaster-hit areas. Thanks to their initiative, 300,000 yen in grants were given to three graduate students.

As concern grew over the radioactive contamination by Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, local branches organised public lectures and forums on topics ranging from health impacts to nuclear energy. JAUW CIR, Nobuko Akita, talked about the accident and its aftermath at the 9th University Women of Asia (UWA) conference in Bangkok in November 2012. She focused on the human rights infringement incurred on the evacuees' lives as well as the women's voluntary networking for change, since the Conference was held under the theme of "the Role of Women as Peacemakers".

JAUW gives annual scholarships to about 10 Japanese female university students and two to three foreign graduate students/researchers. The Morita Memorial Award is given to two young female scientists each year.

The JAUW annual national symposium/seminars programme is one of many that JAUW carries out in cooperation with or backed by the national government ministries. The 2012 seminar took part in the IFUW International Colloquia project. A JAUW representative holds a seat in the Gender Equality Liaison Council in the Cabinet Office. The proceedings of the programme are used by many different agents. Many local branches hold public seminars/lectures on timely topics and invite special speakers. Members with special knowledge, e.g. gender issues, serve as lecturers and provide classes/training sessions as requested, often by local municipalities. Club activities are voluntarily organised by members, including book clubs, ink-drawing clubs, calligraphy clubs, Haiku clubs and dance clubs. Members' contribution to the communities or to the society at large is valued highly. This was demonstrated by the presence of Empress Michiko at one of JAUW's fundraising events.

JAUW worked on several of the IFUW resolutions, notably conducting a survey on Home Economics teachers as well as students, and organising open lectures on Work and Life Balance, and Financial Planning and Inheritance. Following the UN CSW56 theme, JAUW organised an open forum in Tokyo and helped the Niigata branch have a forum on Rural Women and the East Japan Disaster.

Following the appeal from IFUW to support Afghan women's representation at the Bonn Conference, JAUW visited the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Gender Equality Bureau in the Cabinet Office. JAUW called for government support of Afghan women's representation and reiterated the need to stipulate its domestic action plans on UNSC Resolution 1325.



## KOREA

THE KOREAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (KAUW) runs a scholarship programme for college and graduate students, as well as a micro finance programme for women who have had, for one reason or another, to interrupt their career. The four educational career centres KAUW operates are for those women who seek job opportunities after a career interruption. The association cooperates with the Korea National Women's Association in nationwide activities.

KAUW is planning future overseas charity activities, with government and non-governmental organisations.

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## THE NETHERLANDS

The Dutch VERENIGING VAN VROUWEN MET HOGERE OPLEIDING (VVAO) focused on getting more and different members, young members, and broadening their perspective internationally. The international plan for 2012-2015 is to focus on networking, including exploring partnerships with other relevant national and international organisations; (self) development of the members by offering Life Long Learning, workshops, seminars, mentorship and social engagement through discussion panels and various projects both at the national and the international level.

As financial illiteracy was addressed by other organisations in the Netherlands, VVAO joined their workshops and seminars. On the Human (Women's) rights issue, VVAO cooperated with the Dutch government's preparations on the CSW and shadow reports on CEDAW, and was involved in the UWE 2012 meeting on Human Rights.



VVAO is part of the Dutch governmental delegation to the yearly UN General Assembly (UNGA) and participated in CSW on Violence Against Women. VVAO has worked to encourage

government at all levels to increase knowledge on human trafficking and disseminate this broadly. The Dutch group has mainly worked on governmental advocacy around "Human Rights are Women's Rights" and on reproductive rights. VVAO has also participated in the Netherlands Women's Council (NVR).

VVAO ran a very successful week-long workshop, funded in part by the Grundtvig Fund, on Leadership in (Female) Voluntary Organisations (LFVO) with members from all over Europe: Northern Cyprus, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, as well as Dutch New Citizens. Participants were from all walks of life - sociology to technical studies - and it was highly successful, one of the outcomes being that each NFA had to come up with a plan for its own group.

Other workshops VVAO ran included one where many international issues were addressed, in a kind of "speed dating" fashion. Participants rated their satisfaction as 7 out of 10.

## NEW ZEALAND

During the triennium, [THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN \(NZFGW\)](#) itself and Canterbury, Otago and Wellington branches reached their 90th year. Manawatu turned 50, North Shore turned 45. North Shore celebrated by writing and publishing “True Minds,” a branch history.

In support of IFUW, NZFGW branches were encouraged to base their local programme around “the Power of Education in Effecting Change” from the IFUW Programme for Action (PfA). Topics considered variously reflect engagement with the PfA’s Four Pillars: e.g. Pay Equity (Wellington); celebrating women’s educational journey (Gisborne); a review of Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) representation (North Shore); setting up schools in a war-torn region (Hawke’s Bay); financial planning and Habitat for Humanity (Southland); books for the Pacific project (Manawatu); submission writing and environmentally sustainable futures (Otago).

In a follow-up to 2010 Resolution 5, NZFGW carried out exploratory work with Parliamentary Services and an international anti-trafficking consultant on the subject of human trafficking. CEDAW’s 2012 Report on New Zealand suggests, however, that more needs to be done. The group has also sent various letters to policy makers on matters highlighted by IFUW: e.g. to Ban Ki-Moon, Government Ministers and Opposition spokespeople about the 19-man UN Climate Change Financing Group’s lack of female representation; an endorsement of the Statement of Feminist and Women’s Organisations on the very limited and concerning results of the 56th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2012, and to Ministers of Foreign and Women’s Affairs urging the inclusion of Afghan women in the Bonn II Conference on the future of Afghanistan.

NZFGW participated in the Colloquia Project on ‘Breaking down barriers to female leadership in higher education’ by providing New Zealand data on women’s participation in academic leadership roles and women in leadership programmes.

As one of the founding members of PGWNet, NZFGW served as the four person Executive of the Pacific Graduate Women’s Network during 2010 - 2012. Its tenure coincided with natural disasters both climatic and seismic in all member countries. NZFGW convened two PGWNet Council meetings – one electronic and one face-to-face in Brisbane, Australia.

NZFGW’s national portfolio of action included formal advocacy with relevant New Zealand Government ministers and agencies about underage cultural marriage in New Zealand; the Pasifika Education Strategy 2012-2015 with a focus on Pacific languages in early childhood education and the retention of Pacific readers in primary school, and opposition to the establishment of Charter Schools. At tertiary level they lobbied about cuts to post-graduate student allowances and the need to reinstate Community and Adult Education funding. Three submissions were made about Alcohol Law Reform. Support for early intervention in intergenerational dysfunction in families, along with a submission on vulnerable children, and reporting on the need for gender and diversity in the New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) Boards.

NZFGW’s collaboration or close functional relations with other organisations include:

- The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ), with many NZFGW members belonging to and holding office in both organisations. In 2012 NZFGW and NCWNZ partially combined their national conferences, holding separate business sessions, but joining for social events and keynote speakers
- Pacific Women’s Watch (NZ) Inc
- UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand
- The New Horizons for Women Trust
- Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MWA) Caucus on International Women’s Issues

- Association of NGOs of Aotearoa (ANGOA)
- The United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNANZ).

Branches also collaborate with other organisations for particular occasions, like International Women’s Day; for example, with Zonta (Manawatu); with Soroptimists (North Shore); with the National Council of Women (Hawkes Bay).

Fundraising for fellowships and awards continues to be NZFGW’s major activity. It involves all nine branches in some way or other, each working autonomously to its own targets and priorities, to raise funds for both their local portfolio of scholarships and awards as well as for NZFGW’s national awards.

Overall, NZFGW had much to be proud of on IFUW Day 2012. With the inaugural focus being on the substantial amount – USD 2 million – that, worldwide, members provide annually for fellowships and grants, NZFGW’s provision of around 15% of this seemed remarkable.

NZFGW undertook a major review and revision of its governance structure and Constitution and By-laws during the Triennium. Substantial changes to both were approved by the 2012 Triennial Conference. NZFGW have successfully transitioned from a triennial to biennial calendar and from a regionally-based, rotating National Executive to the election of National Executive members from all of their country-wide branches.



## NORWAY

**NORSKE KVINNELIGE AKADEMIKERE (NKA)** took the initiative to coordinate a group of Nordic national federations and associations in 2008 called KANN. Three KANN members gave a panel, “Challenges and Successes in Gender Mainstreaming”, at the 7th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education, Bergen, in 2012.

NKA has been focusing on Gender equality in higher education in cooperation with the equality committee at the University of Bergen. Several NKA members were included in Dokument 10, a national women’s history project run by the Women’s Museum at Kongsvinger and coordinated by a former member of NKA. The aim of the project is to record for future generations the experiences of women from various walks of life who are early examples of women’s participation in their fields or their professions.

NKA is a member of FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development), an umbrella organisation for all women’s organisations in Norway and closely connected to NORAD. NKA has submitted comments to some proposed laws during the triennium, among others on the right of men to salary/income during paternity leave and of women to have time off from work for breastfeeding, as well as on the amalgamation of the Equality and Discrimination laws.



## PAKISTAN

**THE PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (PFUW)** is a virtual organisation. The group arranges business skills development through training programmes for girls to enable them to develop self-employment projects in a country with a high unemployment rate.

PFUW is striving to ensure quality education, particularly at secondary school level, with an emphasis on science subjects and information technology, through lectures by both members and guest speakers, as well as by arranging seminars, workshops and talks in colleges.

The Islamabad chapter showed a commendable performance: they built two RCC houses for people affected by floods in the Charsada district of the Khyber Pakhtunwa. The group also donated both in kind support and cash for the welfare of the families affected. They have instituted two scholarships for deserving students of Fatimah Jinnah University for accomplishing post graduate studies.

## RWANDA

**RWANDA ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (RAUW)**, founded in 2006, registered as an approved NGO with the Government with the Rwanda Development Board, has increased its membership over the triennium and is still growing. The electronic network, Dgroup, is a great attraction for new members, as are the group's social events and occasional lectures. For example the "Break the Silence on Menstruation" campaign and its marches, and the Rwanda Friendship Tour attracted members.

"Breaking the silence on menstruation" has been a strong focus for the group, with marches and activities. RAUW submitted a request to government for a tax exemption from sanitary pads and for a greater distribution. The Government provided an exemption and increased the financial allocation to pads. Two marches were organised to publicise this problem and events were held in schools in the districts to distribute collected pads and to create awareness of menstrual hygiene issues among the girls. RAUW's BRPID-funded "Breaking the silence on menstruation" campaign had an impact on the Rwandan education budget, with the subsequent provision of sanitary pads and support for girls' rooms and the designation of a woman teacher to care for girls' issues in all schools.



In March 2009, three RAUW members supported the RAUW Convener for International Relations in advocating for the establishment of the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development at the Kigali Institute of Education. The Centre has flourished, enrolled three cohorts of students and graduated 39 Masters students and a similar number graduated in 2012. Masters theses will contribute to research on issues concerning women and girls in Rwanda. RAUW has organised lectures and reports from visiting academics, researchers and Rwandan students on their masters and PhD studies.

In collaboration with women from Queens University, Worcestershire Association of University Women and Benishyaka Association, RAUW supports 21 orphan secondary students with school fees in government schools. In collaboration with the Slovenia Peace Institute and with EU funding, a Women's Empowerment programme at the Nyamirambo Women's Centre was supported. RAUW members undertook training on issues such as gender-based violence. With Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) funding, 315 illiterate women from Gasaba, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge sectors in Kigali were enrolled in literacy classes, attended and graduated with certificates. This project was extremely successful.

The RAUW CIR attended and spoke at the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) 65, 66 and 67, with the Scholarships Convener in CSW65 and CSW66. The USA Embassy residence hosted a special RAUW social occasion, which was addressed by three female incoming ministers of government. Other social meetings with visiting speakers were held. A commemoration of graduate women who died during the genocide against the Tutsi and a visit to the Heroes' Cemetery to pay tribute to the late Prime Minister Agatha Uwilingiyimana were held in April 2012.

## SCOTLAND

In many ways, the [SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN \(SFUW\)](#) started in 2008 remains a fledgling NFA, with members in Dundee, Glasgow and Inverclyde as well as national members. The three local associations are very active in a number of ways – shared outings, social events, book groups and study groups, particularly on educational matters.



*Glasgow, Inverclyde and District members in their Sunday best attending the Royal Garden party at Holyrood House, Edinburgh*

Much of SFUW's programme has centred on education, with the implementation of a new Curriculum for Excellence being introduced in Scottish schools. During the triennium two seminars were held in the Scottish Parliament (1) on Literacy and Numeracy and (2) Women's Employment in an age of Recession. At the latter, two women MSPs were included in the panel of speakers.

The organisation runs Research Presentation Days, designed to provide post-graduate students with an opportunity to present their theses before an audience of members, answer questions thereon and hear comments on their performance from assessors drawn from different and appropriate backgrounds.

SFUW members always support the Scottish Women's Convention annual event held in the Scottish Parliament to mark International Women's Day. SFUW members contributed to the Japanese Disaster Fund and Pencils for Pakistan.

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## SIERRA LEONE

[THE SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN \(SLAUW\)](#) organised several events to raise awareness of the types of violence that affect girls' education, as well as a colloquium on breaking barriers to female leadership positions in higher education and politics. SLAUW participated in identifying and training female aspirants in the 2012 national elections.

Different speakers were invited to give lectures on a variety of subjects of interest to members: a talk on security issues in the country was given by Mr Ismail Tarawally of the Office of National Security. Rev. Christiana Sutton-Koroma gave a talk on mentoring. A symposium on "Sexual Harassment in Institutions" was held in Freetown with participants from secondary schools in Freetown. The participants were pupils from mixed and single sex schools, guidance counsellors/teachers, parents, SLAUW, membership from other female organisations and the Conference of Principals. The conference included the presence of female role models, such as former ministers and retired senior civil servants.

In 2012, SLAUW held a colloquium sponsored by IFUW on "Breaking barriers: Female leadership positions in higher institutions". Panellists from the University of Sierra Leone attended, as did participants from women's organisations and membership of SLAUW, officers from the Ministry of Education, the Conference of Principals, the Teachers Union and organisations interested in the promotion of women in higher positions.

In early November, over 50 scholarship awards were given for different levels of school studies. Verification visits were made to schools by the Scholarship Convener, the President and the office assistant.

Mrs Yeabu Tholley represented the Association at the 55th Commission on the Status of Women held in New

York in 2011. SLAUW continues to be member of Women's Forum Sierra Leone, IFUW and is registered with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs. SLAUW is represented at meetings organised by civil society organisations.

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## SINGAPORE

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE (UWAS) has nine male and associate members and runs many different training programmes. UWAS collaborates with Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE), which co-ordinates the training programmes for soon-to-be released prison inmates. UWAS broadened its scope of programmes to include free basic computer skills for the elderly in the community (many of whom are women). The programme has been expanded to include soon-to-be released prison inmates (both men and women). UWAS' contributions were highlighted during their annual SCORE Appreciation Awards, an event covered by the national media. In 2013, UWAS hosted a Training & Sharing lunch for interested volunteers as well as UWAS members. During the event, SCORE gave a presentation on the rehabilitation work carried out in the prisons and members shared experiences on the training of prisoners.

Since late 2011, UWAS has, in collaboration with SCORE and CWP, been successfully running two Pre-Release Skills Training Programme for female prison inmates: Pre-job Skills and Money Management. The money management skills programme has been extended to selected male prisoners as well. Forty-five female inmates have benefited from the UWAS/SCORE/ Changi Women's Prison (CWP) Sewing Project For Female Ex-prisoners in which UWAS, with the help of donors, helped to underwrite part of the cost of a sewing project to help train female ex-prisoners to be gainfully employed in the garment and textile industry.

The UWAS Book Prize 2012 was awarded to two final year undergraduates pursuing Gender studies as their major. Vice President Irene Boey represented UWAS at the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) Board meeting in 2012. She was able to provide the First Lady, Mrs Tan, with information about UWAS and its CWP work. UWAS member, Dr. Theresa W. Devasahayam, presented a paper at the 9th Triennial Conference of the University Women of Asia (UWA), organised by the Thailand Association of University Women (TAUW) in Bangkok in 2012. President Sandra Segeram represented UWAS at the same conference.

Other events included the Annual Fellowship Tea, the SCWO President's Forum and the UWAS Lohei Dinner, which participants attended with great pleasure.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

THE SOUTH AFRICA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (SAAWG) celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2013 and has held a conference entitled "Enough is Enough" relating to the challenges still facing women. A publication is being prepared. A national colloquium, Overcoming Barriers to Women in Leadership in Higher Education, was held and a report disseminated widely within South Africa, as well as to IFUW.

SAAWG promotes mentorship. The Johannesburg branch has run the Aurora Project very successfully, in collaboration with Soroptimists and Kingsmead College, for a number of years. This programme provides life orientation courses for a specific number of girl learners in Grades 11 and 12 from various schools in Soweto. Three or four seminars are given each year, on Life after matriculation; Balancing my Life; Leadership and Management through Technology; and Survival Strategies in Life. The Cape Town branch ran a pilot programme, a Schools Academic Literacy Programme,



*Aurora Project, Johannesburg*



a collaboration with five high schools in the Kraaifontein area, outside of Cape Town, which provides Saturday intervention classes for a specific number of girl learners in Grade 9 in English, Personal Development, Democracy, Human Rights, Gender Studies, Financial Fitness, Career Planning over a period of four months, with a

school holiday programme of physical fitness and self-defence. This branch twinned with a Hawaiian woman, who used the opportunity provided by an overseas student travel grant to assist the branch with setting up this school programme.

SAAWG has been in liaison with organisations and government on initiatives around skills development and work opportunities for graduate women, gender rights in a rural context, development in sensitive environmental areas and working towards quality education in South Africa. A letter was written to the President of South Africa requesting the inclusion of Afghan women in the Bonn peace talks. The group is in close contact with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, University of Western Cape lifelong learning unit, Human Sciences Research Council, Prodder NGO directory, SAWISE (South Africa Women in Science & Engineering), Hers-SA, the Shoprite & Checkers Women of the Year project, and UNESCO in South Africa. SAAWG also joined the "Right2know" campaign, a protest against certain provisions around "secrecy" within a proposed South African Information Bill, and the Traditional Courts Bill Protest with Gender Justice, Rural Women's Network and the Law, Race & Gender Unit, University of Cape Town.



## SPAIN

**SPANISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (SFUW)** has branches in Alava, Vizcaya, Madrid and Marbella. The Vizcaya and Alava branches held the Olympes de la Parole (school gender awareness competition) and handed out the awards.

SFUW, through the Marbella branch, collaborates with other organisations, namely Concordia (the most important AIDS association in Spain) by translating their magazine, and with Cáritas, by selling second-hand clothes at their Christmas Charity Fair.

Since 2012, SFUW has been giving scholarships for women to promote the education of women. In 2012, there was a French-Spanish get-together in Madrid. All branches run book clubs, lectures and courses. The Madrid branch is particularly active in book publishing, and over 20 books have been published, reaching thousands.



*Olympes de la parole*



*Visit with French association members*

## SWEDEN

THE SWEDISH UNIVERSITY WOMEN – KAF (KVINNliga AKADEMIKERS FÖRENING) consists of three sections, each with a board of their own and a central board.

KAF is in charge of three foundations:

- The Solbacka Foundation
- The Karolina Widerström Grant Foundation
- The Siri Jacobsson Foundation.

The aim of the Solbacka Foundation is to administer the inheritance of the flat of Sweden's first female physician, Karolina Widerström. The aim of the two other foundations is to give grants to female university graduates. The treasurer of each foundation has a seat in KAF's Board.

Two projects were completed: the cataloguing of Dr Karolina Widerström's archive at the Archive of Women's History (KVINNSAM) in Gothenburg and an inventory of the interior of the flat owned by Dr Widerström. KAF continued its cooperation with Interfem, an organisation for foreign-born university women, and the Stockholm section invited Interfem to a lecture on mentorship by Aulikki Lundgren, a consultant in mentorship.

KAF organised a seminar on Women in the legal profession, in remembrance of Elsa Eschelsson, Doctor of Law and KAF's first President. A book about Elsa Eschelsson as researcher was launched at the same time. A commemoration of Marie Curie was held, with a dinner and lectures. It was 100 years since Swedish Women's organisations held a dinner for Marie Curie in connection with her second Nobel Prize. The Stockholm Section held an open seminar on Women and Technology. In technical universities or departments, approximately 35 per cent of the students are women, but only 4 per cent are professors. However, there is a ten-year plan that 50 per cent of the professors in technical universities/department will be women. The Scania Section held a seminar on Women's role in the temperance movement 1900-1930 led by historian Dr Åsa Bengtsson.

The Stockholm section held seven meetings with lectures for members. The Scania Section held meetings for members at the Lund City Library seven times.

Drs Agneta Rydberg, Orthoptist, and Sandra Nilsson, Immunologist, shared the Karolina Widerström Grant (SEK 35,000 each). Jenny Nilsson, MA, received the Siri Jacobsson grant for studies at the Institute of Education in London, UK.

Beatrice Christensen Sköld, CIR/CER, and Elena Dingu Kyrklund participated in the annual conference of University Women of Europe (UWE). The CIR also took part in the 90-year anniversary of the Finnish University Women.

## SWITZERLAND

THE SCHWEIZERISCHER VERBAND DER AKADEMIKERINNEN (ASFDU) carried out a survey about how women juggle work and family, focusing on the provision and organisation of child care. The results were published on the association's website.

Several workshops were organised throughout the triennium, some jointly with other associations. Seminars for members were run on such themes as networking, presentation skills and use of internet.

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## TURKEY

THE TURKISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (TAUW) has twenty branches. Every year TAUW works on a joint project with its 20 branches. The 2011 Violence against Women campaign reached 10,000 women. And in 2012 TAUW organised a letter campaign to Members of Parliament to protest against incest and child brides. TAUW is very hopeful that this campaign will inspire lawmakers to enforce the legislation that has already established the minimum age for marriage as 18, according to CEDAW.

TAUW and the Platform of Istanbul Women Organisations (IKKB) called women and men to "Say No To Abortion Ban", by organising meetings in Turkey and with Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

TAUW organised law literacy seminars for five weeks with the coordination of different municipalities on "Family Law, Consumer Rights, Violence Against Women, Tenants Rights, and Property Regime Between Spouses".

TAUW started the Friendship Bridge Project to support female university students financially and morally. TAUW has been supporting 700 students and spending 620,000 Turkish liras (US\$ 340,000) annually. In addition to a small monthly grant, TAUW builds "Friendship Bridges" between donors and students, based on the donors' study areas. On the first Saturday of each month, TAUW invites the students to their office. While the payments are being made, guests and members talk with their students on various subjects. Every TAUW member is encouraged to contribute and to introduce at least one donor to the project. Once they graduate, the young women are invited to join the Association without paying an entrance fee. The goal is to give a hand up to female university students with the hope of seeing them in future decision-making positions.

TAUW organised awareness-raising meetings targeting uneducated women, to inform them about their legal rights, and to provide legal advice and support on the subject of violence against women. TAUW works in cooperation with municipalities, bar associations, women centres, women's associations. TAUW provides legal assistance for women in need and counselling for the victims of violence. TAUW reached nearly 10,000 women last year with this project and published a book at the end of the year.

With the "Best Gift is a Book" campaign, TAUW's aim is to create public awareness of the value of books and reading. The message TAUW promotes is "Books are the best gifts, as no other gift will open new horizons. A book will stay in your library and memory forever."

A TAUW delegate attended the UN CEDAW Meeting in New York in March 2013. The TAUW President, Vice President and five members took part in the 2012 UWE annual general meeting in Helsinki. In 2011, TAUW hosted the UWE Annual General Meeting in Antalya. In 2010, the TAUW CIR and five members attended the 30th triennial Conference in Mexico. In 2010, the TAUW CIR attended the UWE Annual General Meeting in Bochum. In August 2013, TAUW is going to host IFUW 2013 Triennial Conference in Istanbul.

## UNITED STATES

THE WOMEN GRADUATES-USA (WG-USA) group was an active advocate throughout the triennium on many IFUW priorities. The Board votes to take action when the issue falls within the established programme priority themes, and ordinarily has been recommended by the WG Advocacy Committee. In addition, action alerts are sent to all members to take individual actions, usually to make contact with their own Congressional Representative and Senators. During the Annual General Meeting (AGM), specific issues in the form of Resolutions are voted upon for further direction for action.

Generally, WG-USA works together in networks with other NGOs on specific issues, although on occasion may work together with only one other organisation.

**Human Trafficking** - WG-USA worked to inform US members and members of the public about the business of human trafficking, a serious and dangerous issue worldwide. Activities were undertaken to create visibility and information about the issue and its effects and presence in the United States, especially in localities where WG-USA members are active. Advocacy action was primarily conducted in coalition with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). WG-USA signed on to the petition to pass the national Safe Harbor Act and ratification of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Children, as well as sending a petition to President Obama to support the Anti-Slavery Act. Through the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework for Business and Human Rights, the United Nations Global Initiative to Combat Human Trafficking, and the United Nations Global Compact, there is worldwide acknowledgement that corporations are well positioned to help prevent commercial sexual exploitation at such events. Therefore, WG-USA signed a letter and urged membership to send letters to Super Bowl sponsors and suppliers to stop sex and labour traffickers from plying their trade during that event, as major sporting events now frequently are the scene of human trafficking. They have done the same for organisers of the World Cup in Brazil.

**Immigrants’ Access to Education** - WG-USA also advocated for access to education by immigrant/refugee women, with a focus on opposing or supporting federal and state legislation that would deny children of undocumented immigrants access to funding for higher education (The Dream Act, which was defeated at the national level because one provision would have allowed eventual path to citizenship; since then 13 States have passed similar legislation); to promote the teaching of English to recently arrived immigrants and refugees, especially women and children; to encourage young women to pursue educational programmes and careers in the international arena; and to promote the teaching of foreign languages in the schools.

**Peace** - WG-USA monitors federal government on the US State Department Plan of Action designed to implement the UN Resolutions on women, peace and security (SCR 1325 et al). Along with 35 other national NGOs, WG-USA also advocated in Congress for a law that would codify the Plan of Action instead of only being an administration policy which could be eliminated by a new President’s administration. A further focus was given to the implementation strategy of “unarmed civilian peacekeeping” (UCP), a successfully proven model of professionally-trained teams of men and women primarily protecting women and children. UCP is used in internecine conflicts in such places as Sri Lanka, Philippines, South Sudan, South Caucasus and Kyrgyzstan. WG-USA also signed on to a Call to Include Gender in the Arms Trade Treaty drafted by Amnesty International and supported by the Peace Network in which WG-USA is represented.

**CEDAW** - United States law requires that the US Senate ratify UN Conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) that was signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Since that time, there has only been two instances when ratification could have been possible, an occurrence that happens when the President and the majority in the Senate are of the same party. Currently, this situation exists, therefore, WG-USA signed on to the Global Solutions petition urging the US Senate to ratify CEDAW.

**Violence Against Women** - At the invitation of the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women Campaign, WG-USA signed on to the UN Women Say NO UNiTE to End Violence against Women petition in support of Malala Yousufzai's campaign for education for all girls. With the re-introduction in 2013 of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a message was forwarded to WG-USA members urging them to individually contact their Representatives to agree and vote on a Senate version of the VAWA. It passed. The focus for WG-USA is now on the International VAWA agreement.

**UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** - Activity was intense at the CSW in 2013, where WG-USA signed statements, sponsored events and joined other events. WG-USA hosted an NGO Side Event on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping. The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Women Graduates-USA sponsored an NGO Side Event on Non-State Torture Victimization, which includes the violence of rape, and is too often not prosecuted and punished. Approximately twenty WG-USA members attended the following events: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Effective Practices, sponsored by IFUW; Untying the Knot: Preventing violence against women and girls by ending early marriage, sponsored by Girls Not Brides and World Vision; Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Schools, sponsored by American Association of University Women and Working Group on Girls; and Global Perspectives on Violence Against Women, sponsored by Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund along with Zonta International and the Huairou Commission.

**Partner NGOs** - In addition to those mentioned above, these include Friends of UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Amnesty International, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Women's Network, Religions for Peace, US Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Nonviolent Peaceforce, and The Advocates for Human Rights. WG-USA also collaborates with the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, the CEDAW Task Force, the United Nations Association/USA and International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific).



## ZAMBIA

**THE ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (ZAUW)** focuses on three main centres of interest: Career Guidance/mentoring; the Scholarship Fund; and Role Model Profiling - Honoring women who have excelled in male-dominated fields.

In 2010, a combined workshop for career guidance teachers and selected girls from schools in Lusaka Province was held to formulate strategies for promoting career guidance in schools. Career talks were held in 23 schools in under-privileged areas of Lusaka province and Kabwe District (Central Province). Testimonies from role models were shared by a young woman employed in the field of environmental health, a female mathematics teacher and by three girls, some of whom have defied challenging personal circumstances to achieve their degrees. Inter-school debates were held in Chongwe district. The topic for the debate was "Science subjects are good for both girls and boys". The winner received a 29-inch television set as first prize and second prize was a video/still camera, donated by a commercial company.

The Scholarship Fund extended scholarships to four girls at Ibolelo High School in Serenje, Central Province. These girls are now in Grade 12. The funds also enabled ZAUW to give partial scholarships to thirteen girls studying in non-traditional fields at the Copperbelt University and University of Zambia respectively. The awards went to students in the non-traditional fields for girls, such as natural sciences, mathematics, agricultural sciences, bio-medical science, medicine and pharmacy.

The Association's flagship event takes place on International Women's Day, and is entitled Role Model Profiling. It honours women who have excelled in male-dominated fields. Since 2011, ZAUW hosts its flagship luncheon which honours women who have succeeded in non-traditional professional fields. In 2011, 2012 and 2013 ZAUW honored female professors, engineers, and high-ranking women in the defense forces respectively.



*ZAUW President Ms. Lucy Muyoyeta (in glasses) and ZAUW Member Ms. Marian Munyinda at Ibolelo High School with Careers Guidance Teacher and Students sponsored by ZAUW and FAWEZA*



*From left ZAUW Vice President, Teacher and the 3 of the 4 girls sponsored by ZAUW from Ibolelo Secondary School in Serenje during the IWD 2013 event.*



*The five professors who were present out of the eight professors honoured. From right to left – Prof. Anne Sikwibele, Mary Shilalukey-Ngoma, Enala Mwase, Mubiana Macwani and Nkandu Luo*



*Former Minister for Gender Ms. Emerine Kabanshi giving the award to an engineer, looking on is Permanent Secretary in the same Ministry Ms. Edwidge Mutale*



*Permanent Secretary in Min. of Gender Ms. Edwidge Mutale honouring Brig. Gen. (rtd) Frida Kazembe – First Zambian woman to reach the rank of General*



## ORGANISATIONS WITH WHOM IFUW MEMBERS COLLABORATE (non exhaustive list)

Association of NGOs of Aotearoa (ANGOA)	NCBP National Coalition on Beijing Plus 5 and 10.
Business and Professional Women's Club	New Horizons for Women Trust
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad	New Zealand Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) Caucus on International Women's Issues
Berliner Resolution	Nürnberger Resolution
Canadian Association of Retired Persons	Pacific Women's Watch (NZ) Inc
CARE Canada	Preis Frauen Europas
Caritas	Project Five-O
Deutscher Frauenrat	SAARCFUW
Deutscher Frauenring	Solwodi Solidarität mit Frauen in Not
Deutscher Juristinnen Bund	Soroptomist International Club
europäische Frauenbewegung	SZ
FidAR Frauen in die Aufsichtsräte	Terre Des Femmes
FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development)	WoMenPower2000
Girls' Day	Women and Sustainable Europe
Gleichstellen Bundesinitiative für Frauen in der Wirtschaft	Women and Work
Grandmothers to Grandmothers	Women in the War against Croatia
Habitat for Humanity	YWCA
Hans-Martin Schleyer Stiftung	United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNANZ)
Kompetenzzentrum Diversity & Chancengleichheit	UN Women
Korea National Women's Association	Wirtschaftsforum
Liberta	Žene u domovinskom ratu/Women in the War against Croatia.
Mächen-Technik-TAGe	Zonta
Mestamacher Preis Managerin des Jahres	
Migrantinnen Kongress	
National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ)	

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This document represents a snapshot of the activities that the member federations and associations of IFUW have carried out over the years 2010 – 2013. It is based on information that was provided to IFUW and is not a comprehensive portrait of all the varied and interesting activities that they carry out. For more information, please visit the IFUW website ([www.ifuw.org](http://www.ifuw.org)), where links to all the member organisations can be found.

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