



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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IAW 36th Triennial Congress

Safety : Choices : Voices

London UK : 8 - 12 September 2013

The Alliance returned to the UK after many decades for its 36th Congress hosted by the UK All Pakistan Women's Alliance. Sessions were held in the beautiful Old Hall at Lincolns Inn with its Tudor architecture, Hogarth's painting of "*Paul before Felix*" and wooden screen designed by Inigo Jones.



Congratulations to the new Executive
President - Joanna Manganara
Secretary-General - Mmabatho Ramagoshi
Treasurer - Seema Uplekar

IAW 36th Triennial Congress

President Lyda Verstegen acknowledged the special work of a group of members and presented them with an IAW memory stick named for Olive Bloomer, beloved former President. It contains the Constitution and By-laws, the Centennial production and a story about Olive.



from the right: Joke Sebus, Editor of the e-Newsletter; Pat Richardson, Membership Officer; Hélène Sackstein, IAW representative in Geneva; Heleen Kist who devised Ning for IAW; Gudrun Haupter, tireless representative to WHO; Alison Brown, former Secretary-General.

Joke and Pat are standing down from their positions after many years of dedicated work; Hélène has taken on a new position in the Human Rights sector.

A stimulating program of workshops was arranged for Congress with speakers reaching across a wide spectrum of organisations as well as from IAW. These sessions focussed on the Congress theme: **Safety, Choices and Voices** and provided delegates with opportunities to listen, learn and discuss a range of topics.



Panel on Feminist Economics

from left Professor Diane Elson from Essex University, who spoke on Gender and the Financial Crisis; Inga Thorbjorg, Moderator Joanna Manganara and Margunn Bjornholt.

Throughout Congress, the issues that came up again and again were Violence and Human Rights. More collaboration between international women's organisations was called for on these and other issues of common concern.

The scene was set by the UK APWA Panel. Its first speaker, prominent Pakistani lawyer and international human rights activist, Asma Jayangir, talked about the ongoing fight against violence.

"Empowerment prevents violence. No power - more violence." "Do not accept any form of violence - a slap is the start of greater and greater violence."

Once again the Reports for Congress from Affiliates, Associates and IAW Representatives were presented in a printed book to all delegates



The Crypt beneath the Old Hall, was used for storage of fuel, food and wine over many centuries. It is now the ideal place for delegates to relax and network while enjoying refreshments and looking at the stalls offering a tempting range of items for sale. This photo shows one of the alcoves in The Crypt.

IAW 36th Triennial Congress



IAW members and observers representing 21 countries at the London Congress. It is wonderful to see many longstanding members who have given years of service to IAW. It's also wonderful to see younger women who are committed to carrying on the work of the Alliance and particularly to know that some of them have been elected to the new Board for the 2014-2016 Triennium. (Photo from Neha Soomro)

The photo below shows some of the newly elected Board members.

Back row from left: Bashan Rafique, Jocelyne Scutt, Natalia Kostus, Louise Deumer, Danielle Levy, Rakesh Dhawan, Ashe Deshpande, Mapule Ncanywa, Jessika Kehl-Lauff and kneeling in front Signe Valun, Anne Wegge and Margunn Bjørnholt.

The post-Congress Bashan and Jessika Presidents.

Regional Vice Presidents:
Mapule Ncanywa—Africa;
Europe; Johanna
America; Ashe
East Asia.



Board meeting elected as Executive Vice

Presidents are: Mapule
Marion Böker—
Sterbin—North
Deshpande—South

Council of Europe

by Anje Weirsinga

The objective of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe (CoE) is to influence the policies of the Member States of the CoE. We follow closely the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers and contribute to that work by providing information and by proposing amendments to its Recommendations and Resolutions. This year we have been very active and particularly effective. However, **implementation of adopted policies should often be on the national level, and that is where IAW Member Organisations should use their influence reminding their own government of implementing promises made at the international level.**

At the Council of Europe IAW representatives are focussing on two subjects:

1. *Implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security by supporting women in the MENA (Middle East and Northern Africa) Region.*

2. *Violence against Women.*

As we all know, women alongside men participated in the protest movements in the Arab world, which started in 2011. Less well known is the fact that numerous national and regional women's organisations are active and have formulated officially their wishes, demands and priorities. After the revolutions women were told to go back home and were often excluded from decision making positions as patriarchal attitudes still dominate their societies. However, in the transition period it is important that women's wishes, demands and priorities are recognised and included into the democratic processes. The CoE - through its Commission on Democracy and Law - assists the MENA countries in this democratic transition process by advising on legal aspects such as on Constitution, Electoral Laws etc. The Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE is debating the political situation in these countries, its committees organises hearings of Arab citizens, including women, while parliamentarians are visiting these countries regularly.

In 2011 Anje Wiersinga started an INGO taskforce at the CoE with the objective to support women in the MENA Region. Her contact with women's organisations in the MENA Region was through a Dutch NGO, the Arab Caucus at the CSW, hearings organised by European Union and Council of Europe; she also travelled to conferences in Istanbul, Rome and Fez. The conference in Fez was particularly educative. It was organised by the Center for Women and Development of the University of Fez, whose Director Fatima Sadiqi is also the President of the Moroccan National Union of Women Organisations.

In 2011 following a campaign with one million signatures Morocco withdrew its reservations to CEDAW and a new Constitution enshrines the principle of equality between men and women and contains provisions on increasing women's participation in decision-making. At the Fez Conference it was explained that the Koran and Islam proclaim equality between men and women and that the patriarchal attitude was cultural,

not religious. Interestingly, there were quite a few male speakers and participants. Another lesson learned was the way how more conservative Islamic women were given equal opportunity to take part in the discussion and air their views. These women might not change their conservative views immediately; however they might remember and change when their daughters grow up and start questioning.

It has been through these experiences that the INGO taskforce has formulated several recommendations urging the International community to listen to women and their representatives from the MENA countries, to support their views, demands and priorities and to bring these to the attention of authorities in those countries.

Rabia El Morabet Belhaj together with Anje Wiersinga researched the wishes, demands and priorities expressed by 30 national and 3 regional women's organisations in 8 countries and compiled these into a publication to make this information accessible to politicians. To prevent further delay the booklet was published as an IAW publication and was presented at a Round Table in January 2013 in Strasbourg. The 2nd edition was available in March 2013. Thanks to Danielle Levy, Monique Bouaziz, Celine Verdier and others, parts of the 50-page book are translated into French and the rest will be translated as the revised 3rd edition is completed.

In January 2013 a Round Table was organised on the initiative of the Taskforce and with the support and participation of the Deputy General of the Council of Europe, the President of the North-South Centre, several parliamentarians, the Egyptian activist Karima Kamal.

Although the political and socio-economic situation varies significantly across the region, and each country has its own history and identity, it is remarkable how similar the wishes, demands and priorities of women are across the MENA region. And in each country citizens - men and women - demonstrated for the same: dignity, freedom and democratic reform and women were welcomed to participate alongside men.

Despite formulating their wishes, demands and priorities, women's organisations are seldom listened to and women are often ignored by politicians and decision makers. There are several reasons for this: Traditional attitudes of both men and women towards the role expected from women, defined by household duties, raising children and responding to husbands' wishes are difficult to change. Moreover, in countries with a Muslim majority there is a real conflict between citizens who want a political system based on Islamic principles and Koranic law and citizens who want a secular state with separation of State and Religion. Worse, some politicians misuse their so called religious principles for political and personal gain. Further, male politicians are often simply not aware of the situation of women and the different needs of women and men and are often not aware of the negative outcome for women of their policies. This is true for European politicians as well as for Arab politicians.

Council of Europe

by Anje Weirsinga

The recent World Forum for Democracy of the Council of Europe had 15 male and one female speaker in its opening session; at the same time the Secretary General of the Council stresses that equal rights for women is a condition for real democracy. Nobody noticed!

On the socio-economic situation of women in the 8 Arab countries two facts are interesting. First, on education - it is well known that the literacy level varies enormously between the countries, from nearly 100% in Tunisia to as low as ±30% in Yemen. Less well known is the fact that in several countries – Libya, Bahrain among these – the majority of higher educated are women ±60%, although this is not reflected in their participation in political and public life.

Second, the high numbers of single women of marriageable age - 20% in Bahrain, 30% in Yemen, up to 35% in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. These numbers comprise unmarried, divorced, abandoned and widowed women. The consequences of these high numbers are underestimated and subsequently their socio-economic problems are not dealt with. Many of these women become victims of human trafficking and prostitution and violence.

Nearly all women's organisations include the demand for equal rights in all areas of life, to include International Human Rights principles into National Law and to implement these laws. CEDAW is named specifically and particularly the need to lift all reservations to CEDAW. These reservations often pertain to Family Law. The demand to change Family Law is also a recurring priority in order to secure equality between women and men in family affairs.

Violence against women is mentioned by nearly all women's organisations as a major problem, often condoned by religious law or custom. Bahraini law, for instance, states "nothing is considered a crime as long as it is the exercise of a right granted by law or custom". Violence is named as a priority issue by women's organisations to be dealt with by law, by raising awareness of the problem and by practical assistance to victims.

You might wonder: what effect does all this have? Has anything changed? It would be naïve to expect the Government of, say, Egypt to suddenly change its policies. Egyptian women and men have to do this themselves. We can support them. Women in those countries tell us that they are encouraged by our support at international level, they feel they are not forgotten and that gives them strength to continue.

Therefore in June 2013 a new recommendation was adopted by the INGO Committee on Democracy supporting the wishes and demands expressed by the Arab Caucus and the Network of Egyptian Women Organisations during the CSW, March 2013. It urges the International Community and its governments:

- to refrain from giving precedence to political and economic interests over internationally agreed values and principles of protecting human dignity.

- to support in their contact with authorities in the Arab world that governments should respect past agreements with international legislation and conventions defining women's rights; the revolution cannot go back on these agreements.

- to condemn the deliberate and unprecedented targeting of a woman's body on political grounds that became known as 'sexual terrorism' as criminal acts and to request governments to bear full responsibility for providing adequate protection for women and for punishing the perpetrators of such violent crimes.

- to denounce clearly the harmful use of religion, tradition, and culture to safeguard practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

- to ensure that the international community and governments investigate all violations against women and girls, in particular the escalation of violence during transition periods and in situations of armed conflict and to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators, both state and individuals.

We also contribute to CoE policies directly. Several of our proposed amendments on Parliamentary Recommendations have been included. Sometimes Anje Wiersinga is invited to explain the importance of the proposal to the Parliamentary Committee.

This October the Parliamentary Assembly held an urgent debate on the situation in Syria. Anje Wiersinga noticed that the Report and the draft Recommendation, while emphasising widespread human rights violations, particularly the use of chemical weapons, and the overall humanitarian crisis, did not mention the widespread sexual violence and gender based violence against women, a topic raised by the Syrian International Association of Care for Women Victims of War. Anje had met members of that Association just the week prior to the debate. Therefore the INGO taskforce members proposed and lobbied for amendments to rectify this - with success.

The Parliamentary Assembly, following its urgent debate on the Situation in Syria, *adopted the Recommendation with two amendments on the widespread sexual violence and gender based violence against women and requested the subject to be placed on the agenda of the Geneva Peace Conference. Most importantly, it lead to a discussion on the subject, which indicates that the issue of gender based violence as a weapon of war during conflicts will remain on the agenda.*

On Violence against Women we focussed on promoting the ratification of the CoE Europe Convention combating and preventing Violence against Women. Two site events were organised: one during the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2013 and one during the Parliamentary Session in Strasbourg in June 2013. We also distributed example letters to be sent to governments to urge them to ratify, so that the Convention will come into effect after 10 ratifications. **see page 6*

Anje Weirsinga, LAW Representative to Council of Europe

News and Comments

Congratulations Anje! As a result of instigating amendments to the draft recommendations on the situation in Syria, Anje Weirsinga received the International Jans Gremmée Award of the University Women of Europe in Istanbul in August 2013. She feels that the Award belongs to the whole IAW team at the Council of Europe including Monique Bouchet and Betty Doornenbal. (See end of page 5)

Comment from Natalia Kostus

IAW Members gathered in London to debate, vote, and take joint decisions on global women's rights. The Triennial Congress was the largest gathering and the most important event for IAW.

Participants had the opportunity to hear from high profile speakers, including Baroness Shreela Flather, member of the House of Lords, who spoke about profits and investments in women. Speakers from the UK All Pakistan Women's Association, led by Chairperson Bashan Rafique, shared stories and gave voice to women in Pakistan, who struggle facing injustice and violence, and who work tirelessly to better their communities.

Social events, receptions, and formal and informal discussions allowed delegates creativity and were unequalled opportunities to connect, strengthen personal friendships, and exchange knowledge and experiences.

President Lyda Verstegen and Secretary General Lene Pind led the discussions to determine future direction of IAW. Key outputs included IAW Action Programme 2014 – 2016 "Safety-Voices-Choices" and Congress Resolutions to inspire and guide IAW work.

Exciting outcomes of the Congress were: the adoption of the Resolution on Climate Change and Women's Rights, stepping up engagement on climate change across IAW, and the creation of the IAW Commission on Climate Change.

Editor: Natalia was elected to the Board and appointed Convenor of the new Commission on Climate Change. She has been working on an analysis and report on the climate change negotiations that recently concluded in Warsaw, Poland.

Using the Congress theme, Arina Angerman says: *Any organisation's agenda must include Fighting Violence (Safety); gender equality in decision making at all levels (Voices) and education in a broad sense (Choices).* The vision of the IAW Action Program 2014-2016 is: *Every girl, every woman counts. They must be safe, have a voice in decisions and a choice over their lives.*

Vale Cecile Nobrega

Cecile's daughter, Eve, sent us the sad news that Cecile had died quite peacefully in her home in Stockwell, South London on Tuesday 19th November 2013. She was born on 1st June 1919 in Georgetown, Guyana (formerly British Guiana). Eve had hoped to attend the London Congress this year but was caring for her mother at the time.



Cecile and Eve at an IAW gathering hosted by the Sri Lanka Women's Association UK in London 2008

Guyanese Online remembers Cecile as a BHS scholar, musician, artist, text-book writer, poetess and many more attributes. Her latest and finest glory was the erection of "The Bronze Woman Monument", erected in Lambeth Park, Stockwell Memorial Gardens, London England.

Editor: See IWN News Volume 103 No 3 2008. BBC News reported: London's first public statue of an African-Caribbean woman has been unveiled as a memorial to women in the Caribbean community. See also <http://www.olmeca.org.uk/>

**The focus of the next edition of *International Women's News* will be on CSW58.
Deadline for articles and photographs is
15 January 2014.**

The Board confirmed that in 2014 two editions will be sent to members online. The first edition next year will be printed and posted. Please advise Pat Richardson, Membership Officer, if you are not receiving your magazine online.
iaw.membership@womenalliance.org

CSW58

Pre-reading and Themes

What is on the agenda at the March 2014 meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women?

Soon-Young Yoon, Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and UN representative for the International Alliance of Women, has provided her 'personal picks' on the website of the website of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY <http://www.ngocsw.org/news/soon-young-yoons-personal-reading-picks>. She says these are the things to read if you want to be well-informed about the scope of the post 2015 debates at CSW 58. These include the following:

Best overview: *UN Women A transformative Stand-along goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*

See: <http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/post-2015-case-for-standalone-gender-goal.pdf>

If you want to see the important connections between the Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Agenda, this is the report to study. It sets targets and puts Violence Against Women exactly where it needs to be—at the center of the argument.

Best review of the Millennium Development Goals
The United Nations The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

See: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

The priority theme of CSW 58 is a Review of the Millennium Development Goals. Although the topic will be much over shadowed by the Post-2015 arguments, it is still useful to focus on these clearly defined, measurable goals. Yes, I know that the Gender Equality targets are inadequate—but that is why we need to build on the MDGs and move on.

United Nations, A New global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development

See: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

This is useful preparation for the Sustainable Development Goals discussions.

Themes for CSW58

Priority theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

Review theme:

Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session)

Emerging issue:

To be determined

Australian NGO Guide to the Commission on the Status of Women

JERA International was contracted by the Commonwealth Office for Women, through the Gender Equality for Women Program that aims to improve gender equality through coordinated whole-of-government advice and support for women's economic security, safety and status, to develop an Australian NGO Guide to CSW as a tool for Australian NGOs to acquaint themselves with the logistics of attending CSW as well as the strategic importance of the event to women. The work was largely supported by a grant from the Australian Government Office for Women, FaHCSIA.

Development of this Guide was community driven and is targeted to fit those thinking of engaging with CSW as well as those who attend on a regular basis. All information in this Guide is current at the time of writing. As developments occur internationally and nationally, it is hoped this Guide can be added to and used as a living, ongoing document.

The Australian government considers the annual session of the CSW as an important international event drawing attention to women's rights and efforts to address gender inequality. Important to successful negotiations and outcomes are active and informed NGOs on the ground at CSW and in the lead up to preparations.

<http://jerainternational.org/projects/csw>

Editor: The co-authors are Carole Shaw and Judith van Unen. Members who attended IAW2012 in Melbourne, Australia will recall that Judith was an active participant in some sessions.

Towards elimination of sexual violence in conflict

In September 2013 at the UN General Assembly in New York more than half of the Member States endorsed a high level declaration toward eliminating sexual violence. It contains a set of practical and political commitments to end the use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war, which terrorises and destroys communities during conflict.

The declaration, launched on the sidelines of the General Assembly, was endorsed by 113 countries, including Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States.

Some background leading up to this declaration: In October 2012 the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, told reporters in Geneva "We have the tools to combat this scourge, but we need the political will to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and a commitment from governments to enforce them".

At that time Ms Bangura outlined objectives she would pursue: Addressing impunity and justice for victims; protecting and empowering affected women; strengthening the political will for implementing Security Council resolutions pertaining strategies to combat and prosecute sexual violence; coordinating the response of the international community to sexual violence; understanding rape as tactic of war; and encouraging local and national ownership of the problem and its solution.



"Sexual violence in conflict needs to be treated as the war crime that it is," she said. "It can no longer be written off or treated as an unfortunate collateral damage of war or unavoidable byproduct of political strife."

Ms Bangura also noted that sexual violence in conflict is no longer a gender issue as men and boys are increasingly becoming victims of sexual violence in conflict situations.

William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary, has made tackling impunity for conflict-related sexual violence a priority for British foreign policy. One of the biggest challenges that has been facing this UK effort has been finding broader international support.

In April 2013, Zainab Bangura, spoke at the G8 Forum where the world's eight wealthiest countries launched the G8 Declaration on Sexual Violence in Conflict and pledged \$36m in support. She said there was no way to end sexual violence unless impunity is ended and observed that the pledge would help countries to, among other things, strengthen political will and provide services for the victims.

Foundation for ending violence against women and their children

Australia has a new body <http://www.preventviolence.org.au/> to tackle the primary prevention of violence against women and children. Its object is to bring together government and industry, civil society and faith based groups building on the White Ribbon approach to seek cultural change, to end the rise of violence in Australian community.

The Foundation will work nationally but will be based in the State of Victoria using "best practice prevention strategies" with schools, community forums and the media to help reduce the prevalence of violence against women and children. The Australian and Victorian governments have so far pledged about \$9.5 million to get the foundation off the ground and pay its operating costs until 2017. It will build partnerships with business, philanthropic organisations and governments across Australia and to the wider community.

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM is the first chairperson of the Foundation. Other directors are Prof. Muriel Bamblett (Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency); Prof. Rosemary Calder (former head of the Commonwealth Office for the Status of Women); Dr Phil Lambert (White Ribbon); Alcoa head Alan Cransberg, and Chair of the National Centre of Excellence, Prof. Anne Edwards.

Ms Stott Despoja says:

Think of an Australia where women, girls and boys live without the threat or fear of abuse and violence, of any kind, whether in their homes or in other places.

Think of living in a country in which we all speak up about these issues and as a community say we do not and cannot accept violence in the lives of anyone.

This is what the Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children is about.

On 16 December 2013 Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Michaelia Cash announced the appointment of ←Ms Natasha Stott Despoja as **Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls**. She will succeed Ms Penny Williams, who was appointed Australia's inaugural Ambassador in September 2011.



The ministerial statement said: "Gender empowerment is a priority for the Australian Government's overseas development program.

"As the former leader of a political party and a Senator for 13 years, Ms Stott Despoja is well qualified to lead Australia's international efforts to increase representation of women in leadership roles. Her focus will be to promote women's economic empowerment as well as participate in conflict prevention and peace building; end violence against women and girls; and improve access to health and education services."

All Pakistan Women's Association - Punjab

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2013, and the start of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, APWA Punjab held a Symposium with the theme **Youth emerging as a force to positive change to end violence against women.**



The Guest of Honour was Begum Zakia Shanawaz, Minister for Population and Family Welfare. Other speakers included Human Rights activist, Mr. I.A. Rehman, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Mrs. Shamsa Ali Malik, Supreme Court Advocate.

Mr. Rehman said, **“A country where mothers are killed for giving birth to baby girls can’t be called an ethical society”.**

He provided some statistics on violence, noting that from January 2012 to September 2013, there were 90 acid attacks on women, 72 cases of burning caused by other means, 491 cases of domestic violence, 344 cases of gang rape and 835 cases of violence. “Young girls are being raped in Pakistan and all we do is shout rather than do anything practical.”

Mr. Rehman observed that giving girls and boys equal access to education and introducing a uniform education system for the rich and the poor would bring about positive changes in Pakistan. “It has taken us 62 years to say that education is a basic right,” he added.

Another measure advocated by Supreme Court Advocate Shamsa Ali was that a third of seats in local government should be reserved for women. She explained that this would make local bodies a nursery for young female politicians.

Although Pakistan had ratified the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Mrs. Shamsa Ali pointed that this had not been fully implemented. She called for a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women.

Editor: APWA has a history as old as Pakistan and was born as a messenger of social change. A commitment to the moral, social and economic welfare of the women and children of Pakistan brings women from all walks of life together in the All Pakistan Women's Association. It was formally launched in 1949 by Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, wife of the first Prime Minister.

Valérie Trierweiler et les premières dames d'Afrique mobilisées contre les violences sexuelles

07/12/2013 Par Haby Niakaté *Jeune Afrique*

Invitées par Valérie Trierweiler, la compagne de François Hollande, les épouses des chefs d'État africains présents au sommet de l'Élysée, à Paris, se sont retrouvées, le 6 décembre, au musée d'Orsay. Objectif : lancer un appel à la fin de l'impunité dans les affaires de violences faites aux femmes sur le continent.

Elles sont dix-sept à avoir répondu à son invitation. Toutes sont venues assister à la "réunion de mobilisation contre les violences sexuelles faites aux femmes dans les conflits", organisée en marge du Sommet de l'Élysée pour la paix et la sécurité en Afrique.

"Notre rencontre d'aujourd'hui revêt un caractère exceptionnel. Habituellement, les sommets de chefs d'État ne laissent qu'une modeste place aux premières dames. Je suis fière que celui-ci nous offre l'opportunité d'une séance de travail dont j'espère qu'elle fera progresser la causes que nous défendons toutes", a déclaré Valérie Trierweiler. Avant de conclure un discours d'une dizaine de minutes, emprunt du franc-parler qui la caractérise : "Je vous demande, avec moi, de ne plus vous taire".

Bien que très officiel et très encadré, la réunion a réservé quelques moments d'émotion, notamment lors de la diffusion d'un court-métrage sur les violences sexuelles en RDC. Autre témoignage fort : celui d'Hélène Voubo, victime de violence multiples et venue spécialement de la Centrafrique pour raconter son calvaire. En ce jour de déclenchement de l'opération française Sangaris, ses propos ont eu une portée plus grande encore. Tétanisée, ayant du mal à porter son micro, la Centrafricaine a déclaré : "Tout le monde a peur, on dort dans les églises...". Valérie Trierweiler s'est alors levée pour la serrer dans ses bras, sous les applaudissements. "Nous avons écouté votre

témoignage, très pénible... On est de tout cœur avec vous", a ajouté Zineb Yahya Jammeh, épouse du président gambien, qui a ensuite demandé à tout le monde de se lever pour rendre hommage à Hélène Voubo.



La Gambienne a d'ailleurs été la première à se lancer, lorsque Valérie Trierweiler a demandé si l'une des "first ladies" voulait s'exprimer devant la presse. "L'ONU doit aider à faire appliquer la loi, le viol ne peut rester impuni", a-t-elle déclaré dans une allocution d'une dizaine de minutes et en anglais. Plusieurs autres épouses de chefs d'État ont elles aussi tenue à apporter leur contribution, comme Antoinette Sassou N'Guesso (Congo), Chantal de Souza Yayi (Bénin), Hadja Djéné Condé (Guinée) ou encore Hadidja Aboubacar Ikililou Dhoinine (Union des Comores).

Avant de se quitter, toutes ont signé un "appel appelant à une mobilisation contre les violences sexuelles", demandant, entre autres, au secrétaire général Ban Ki-moon "de déployer des conseillers pour la protection des femmes, en nombre suffisant dans les missions de maintien de la paix et les mission politiques des Nations unies et à faire dispenser à tout le personnel de maintien de la paix, militaire et civil, une formation approfondie sur les questions d'égalité femmes-hommes."

AIF Congrès 2013

par Lyda Verstegen

Le Congrès de Londres fut un événement impressionnant. Accueillies par la vice-présidente de l'AIF Bashan Rafique et son équipe de UKAPWA, dont elle est présidente, une 70zaine de membres de l'AIF se trouvaient dans l'ambiance de l'OLD Hall à Lincoln's Inn. C'est depuis des siècles l'entourage d'avocats de Londres.

Dans mon discours d'ouverture j'ai nommé les efforts positifs de beaucoup de nos membres que j'avais trouvés dans leurs rapports, recueillis par Lene Pind. Et j'ai distribué des 'memory sticks' avec les documents de l'AIF à certains membres qui excellaient par leur dévouement: Gudrun Haupter et Soon-Young Yoon, Pat Richardson, Joke Sebus et Hélène Sackstein, et par l'innovation qu'elles ont introduite: Alison Brown et Heleen Kist. Les sticks sont dédiés à notre présidente honoraire défunte Olive Bloomer. Après l'élection les sticks furent donnés aussi aux nouvelles membres du Bureau et ils sont à vendre pour 10 Euros.

Le Congrès a travaillé beaucoup, seul le Vendredi fut un jour de congé. Le reste du temps nous nous sommes penchées sur le devise Sécurité-Voix-Choix. Nous avons choisi un nouveau Bureau. Joanna Manganara de Grèce est la nouvelle présidente. Elle a été vice-présidente pour l'Europe, donc elle connaît très bien tout ce qui concerne les femmes, surtout dans l'austérité, imposée par la crise financière. Elle est secondée par Mmabatho Ramagoshi, de l'Afrique du Sud comme secrétaire-général. Mmabatho a organisé le Congrès précédent de Johannesburg, et par Seema Uplekar de l'Inde, qui vit convenablement à Genève, où l'AIF est enregistrée, comme trésorière.

Le Programme d'Action que nous avons arrêté est au fond une traduction de la Convention pour Eliminer toute Discrimination envers la Femme en langue commune. C'est donc plus concret qu'avant, tout en ayant la même teneur.

Le premier jour fut dédié à Pakistan. Asma Jahangir (photo →) nous raconta les problèmes que les femmes Pakistanaïses connaissent en Angleterre et ce qu'elle fait pour les aider. La patronne de UK APWA, baronne Shreela Flather, membre de la House of Lords, nous raconta comment elle fut toujours la première femme pour se trouver devant un défi. Et la vice-présidente de APWA, venue spécialement de Pakistan nous donna l'histoire d'APWA, y compris les hostilités que ces dames devaient neutraliser, quelquefois en faisant appel au mafia locale, quand elles voulaient alphabétiser les femmes. La journée se termina par un reception offerte par l'Oxford Press où fut introduit un livre de recettes traditionnelles de Pakistan.



Le lendemain Prof. Diane Elson, Essex University, faisait le discours principal sur les effets de la crise financière. Elle disait que la crise n'avait rien perdu de son influence sur la vie des femmes, surtout les femmes seules à la retraite et les femmes seules sans enfants. Elle a écrit un livre : Budgeting for Women's Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW. Il faut développer des alternatives équitables, comme par exemple augmenter les impôts pour les grandes entreprises et pour le gens riches. C'est ce que nous avons inclus dans notre Programme d'Action: 'combattre l'évasion des impôts par les gens très riches et des entreprises (multinationales). Joanna Manganara est convaincue que la crise a disproportionnellement d'effet négative pour les femmes à cause du pouvoir traditionnellement aux mains des hommes.

Mercredi fut la journée de Bettina Corke, qui pendant des années à la FAO travaille pour en finir avec la faim. Elle a écrit une brochure : How to end hunger now! (Comment en finir avec la faim maintenant!) , qu'elle a distribuée. Il y a quatre défis: 1. La nécessité d'en finir avec la faim aux plus courts délais; 2. Faire le changement à la consommation et la production de nourriture vraiment durable; 3. Incorporer cette attitude nouvelle dans le cadre du développement durable et 4: être informé, discuter, se joindre et agir diplomatiquement et persistamment. L'exemple est l'expérience Brésilienne avec le Programme Zéro Faim.

Finalement nous avons parlé des droits humains: Gudrun Haupter a parlé des droits des jeunes filles à une opinion, le droit de dire 'non' aux mariages et grossesses précoces, et l'importance d'éducation. Moi-même j'ai insisté au droit des enfants d'être enregistrés, et d'avoir une nationalité. C'est codifié dans la Convention sur les Droit des Enfants et celui sur les Droits des Migrants, pourtant 50 millions d'enfants nés chaque année n'en bénéficient pas. Ainsi il n'ont pas droit aux soins de santé et l'éducation.

Au début du Congrès, sur l'initiative de Monique Bouaziz, nous avons observé une minute de silence pour les victimes de violence, spécialement au Syrie. En fait la violence envers les femmes et les jeunes filles n'a pas quitté les discussions.

A la fin nous avons adopté des Resolutions sur les sujets discutés, que vous trouverez sur la nouvelle site internet.



Danielle Levy and Monique Bouaziz

Qu'y a-t-il à l'ordre du jour du rendez-vous de mars 2014 de la Commission sur le Statut de la Femme?

Soon-Young Yoon, déléguée de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes, a fourni ses 'choix personnels' sur le site web de l'ONG le Comité sur le Statut de la Femme (Committee on the Status of Women), NY <http://www.ngocsw.org/news/soon-young-yoons-personal-reading-picks>. Elle mentionne les articles qui sont à lire afin d'être bien informé du champ des discussions à CSF 58 pour l'après 2015.

Meilleure vue d'ensemble : ONU Femmes *Un objectif autonome en faveur de la réalisation de l'égalité des sexes, des droits et de l'autonomisation des femmes: impératifs et composantes clefs*. Voir :

Voir : http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_post2-15_positionpaper_French_final_web%20pdf.pdf

Si vous souhaitez connaître les liens importants entre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, les Objectifs de Développement Durable et le Programme pour l'Après 2015, ce dernier est l'article à lire. Il détermine des objectifs et place la Violence Contre les Femmes exactement où il faut – au cœur du débat.

Meilleure vue d'ensemble des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement : L'ONU *Réaliser l'avenir que nous voulons pour tous*

Voir: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/unttreport_fr.pdf

Le thème prioritaire du CSF 58 est une revue des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement. Bien que les discussions de l'après 2015 fasse de l'ombre à ce dernier, il est toujours utile de se concentrer sur ces objectifs mesurables et définis.

Oui, je sais que les objectifs de l'Egalité des Sexes sont inappropriés, mais c'est pour cette raison qu'il faut développer les OMD et avancer.

L'ONU, *Pour un nouveau partenariat mondial: vers l'éradication de la pauvreté et la transformation des économies par le biais du développement durable*.

Voir: https://www.un.org/fr/sg/beyond2015_report.pdf

Ce rapport est essentiel à la préparation des discussions sur les Objectifs de Développement Durable.

Le Parlement européen qui sortira des élections de 2014 peut-il être plus féminisé?

Ce sera la huitième fois depuis 1979 que les Européens éliront leurs représentant(e)s au niveau de l'Union européenne (UE) au suffrage universel direct. A l'heure actuelle moins de 35 pour cents des députés sont des femmes.

Le 4 juillet 2013 la plénière du Parlement a rejeté, avec 314 contre 310 voix, la demande d'amendement suivante : Le Parlement européen fait appel aux Etats Membres et aux partis politiques d'œuvrer pour un taux plus élevé de femmes sur les listes de candidats et d'encourager la présentation de listes qui assurent une représentation paritaire.

Par la défaite le texte original encore moins fort est confirmé qui disait : Le Parlement européen fait appel aux Etats Membres et aux partis politiques d'œuvrer pour un taux plus élevé de femmes sur les listes de candidats et d'encourager, **tant que possible**, la présentation de listes qui assurent une représentation paritaire.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS / NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

President:

Joanna Manganara

16 Skoufa Street

Athens 10673

Greece

iawpres@womenalliance.org

Secretary General:

Mmabatho Ramagoshi

PO Box 39589

Moreleta Park 0044

South Africa

iawsec@womenalliance.org

Treasurer:

Seema Uplekar

Rue du Tir 4

1204 Geneva

Switzerland

iawtreas@womenalliance.org

Membership Officer:

Pat Richardson

P.O. Box 380,

Nambucca Heads NSW 2448

Australia

iaw.membership@womenalliance.org

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Les Nouvelles féministes internationales, publiées trois fois par an par l' Alliance Internationale des Femmes, constituent un forum ouvert pour l'information et l'opinion sur des questions importantes pour les femmes. Les textes en français destinés à la publication dans les NFI doivent être envoyés à la rédactrice: **Priscilla Todd** email: iawiwn@womenalliance.org

La cotisation à l'AIF comprend l'abonnement annuel aux NFI. Vous êtes prié d'envoyer 20,- € ou l'équivalent en monnaie convertible à la **ACCOUNT: Alliance Internationale des Femmes: Droits égaux-Responsabilités égales NL-Den Haag** **BANQUE: Post Finance Ltd.** **IBAN: CH96 0900 0000 9182 4 969 4** **BIC/SWIFT Code: POFICHBEXXX** **ADRESSE: Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland.** Veuillez s'il vous plaît renseigner vos nom/adresse/et adresse email et le détail de votre paiement à la Trésori-ère de l'AIF et à l'Officier des adhérents dont les adresses sont indiquées ci-dessus. Tel.: +612 6568 6239