



IFUW Update – 1 April 2015

The screenshot shows the UN Web TV interface. At the top, there are navigation links for UN Home, Multimedia, Radio, Photo, News Centre, Web TV, and Audiovisual Library. The main header features the UN logo and the text 'UN WEB TV The United Nations Live & On-demand'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search UN Videos'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Live Now', 'Meetings & Events', 'Media', 'News & Features', and 'Topics & Issues'. The main content area displays a video player showing Alice Dahle speaking at a meeting. The video title is 'Commission on the Status of Women, Fifty-ninth session, 13th meeting - CSW59'. To the right of the video player, there is a 'RELATED VIDEOS' section with a list of video thumbnails and titles. Below the video player, there is a 'Featured Videos' section.

IFUW and Women Graduates-USA member Alice Dahle delivering IFUW's oral statement at the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) at UN Headquarters, New York.

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW participates in Policy Exchange Symposium

On 24 March, IFUW participated in the Public Policy Exchange symposium on “Employment and Social Inclusion in Europe: Ways Forward for the Young Jobless Generation”. The one-day event saw several esteemed panellists present on the current *status quo* of youth unemployment across Europe, as well as various EU, national and private initiatives that are being run to tackle the alarming number of jobless young people across the region. Stefanie Ledermaier from [Eurofound](#) – a European Union Agency for the improvement of living and working conditions – opened the seminar by providing some stark realities on the number of young people not in education, employment or Training ([NEETS](#)) in the EU. There are currently 14.7 million NEETs under the age of 30 in the EU, amounting to €162 billion in economic loss. Ms Ledermaier went on to explain the recently introduced Youth Guarantee (YG) Programme adopted by the EU, which seeks to tackle youth unemployment. The YG calls on member states to ensure that all young people under 25 receive an offer of a job, apprenticeship, traineeship or continued education within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The project is seeing particular traction in countries such as Austria, Finland and Sweden. The critical role of supporting youth entrepreneurship to foster innovation and economic growth was emphasised by Caroline Jenner of Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise ([JA-YE](#)) and Andrea Gerosa of [ThinkYoung](#). Both panellists discussed [entrepreneurship training](#) specifically focused at young people to raise awareness and develop business-related skills from a young age. Noting a distinct lack of discussion regarding the glaring underrepresentation of women entrepreneurs (less than a third of all entrepreneurs across Europe), and particularly within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), IFUW asked the panel to consider incorporating a greater focus on including a gender perspective in their work going forward. Both parties responded positively, with Mr Gerosa highlighting a particular course of research that examined the participation of girls and women in STEM, [available to view here](#). Since the conclusion of the event, IFUW has been in contact with certain panellists with a view towards potential collaboration.

IFUW delivers oral statement as CSW59

On 17 March, IFUW and Women Graduates-USA member Alice Dahle delivered IFUW's oral statement at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The statement is available to view on the United Nations Web TV [by clicking here](#) (skip to 2h34). IFUW sincerely thanks Alice for her articulate and well-delivered presentation.

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Great Britain

The British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) will host “European Relations Day” on Saturday, 18 April, at the BFWG Headquarters in [London](#). The theme of this year’s event is “Gender Issues within the European Union” and will feature several prominent speakers including: Alex Blakemore, Professor of Human Molecular Genetics and President of the BFWG Greater London Association; Penny Hoffmann-Becking, M.Eng. (Electrical Engineering & Business); and Professor Dr. Kurt Deketelaere, Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). For further information including details on how to register, visit the [BFWG website here](#).

Advocacy

Human Rights Council

Friday concluded the 28th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), drawing to a close a month of meetings and discussion, where IFUW was represented throughout. A particularly important discussion arose during the adoption of the resolution on the rights of the child, ([A/HRC/28/L.28](#)) specifically to promote investment for children across health, education and social protection. The resolution was introduced by the EU and the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). Several subsequent states joined the co-sponsorship, with the United States reiterating its commitment to equality in education, especially with regard to gender equality, and expanded upon Obama’s new initiative “[Let Girls Learn](#).” Other countries – India, Qatar, Russia, and South Africa – agreed to adopt the resolution through consensus, but disassociated themselves with different sections of the resolution, including the national budgeting implications. An especially controversial discussion arose on account of a section of the resolution calling for “access on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination... to include comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality...” Certain States purported that this text was “culturally inappropriate,” and “one-sided, unbalanced and intrusive in nature.” Despite the disassociations, however, the resolution was still adopted unanimously. The entire 28th session of the HRC is available to watch on [UN Web TV here](#).

Grants and Proposals

2015 Ewha Global Empowerment Programme

Join the Asian Centre for Women’s Studies at [Ewha Womans University](#), Seoul, South Korea, for a two-week residential educational programme on “Transnational Feminisms and Women’s Activism”. The programme, run in partnership with Ewha Womans University and UN Women, aims to promote education for women and gender equality in Asia and Africa by empowering women working in non-governmental public sectors and by nourishing the next generation of women leaders. Eligibility is open to women activists working in international and national non-governmental public sectors in Asia and Africa, such as NGOs, NPOs, civil society organisations, with a minimum three years of experience. Ewha Womans University provides the funding to cover fees for the tuition, dormitory and a two-week allowance for all the participants. Deadline for applications: 12 April. [Click here to apply](#).

Did you know?

IFUW has a new translation tool on its website, powered by Google Translate. Click on the box, as shown below, to translate the web content into one of **90 languages!**



Other information and events

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| April 23 | International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Day , global |
| May 14 – 16 | 2015 Global Summit of Women , Sao Paulo, Brazil |
| May 29 | University Women of Europe (UWE) Meet and Greet , London, United Kingdom |
| 28 August – 1 September | UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality” , the Netherlands |
| August 21 – 23 (2016) | IFUW General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa |
| August 24 – 26 (2016) | IFUW Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa |

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

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