



IFUW Update – 20 August 2014



United Nations Human Rights Council, *UN Photo/Violaine Martin* (Creative Commons [Licence](#))

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW Board meetings

The next Board meeting will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 – 28 October 2014. Unless otherwise specified, Board meetings are open to all IFUW members as observers. The meeting will start at 2pm on the 23rd. The Education Committee (EdCom) will have a closed meeting in Geneva from 26 – 28 October. If you are interested in attending the Board meeting, please inform [Lorraine Mangwiro](#) of your dates of arrival and departure. The following Board meeting will take place in 2015.

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

The Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women

The Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women (KTUKD) has championed a project called Nicosia Mother Centre, which was founded in 2009. Catering for approximately 60 women and children yearly, the aim is to help women who could not receive formal education and to educate children who do not have enough background to be successful at school. The Centre offers maths and language lessons (including English, Greek, Spanish), as well as providing computer classes for beginners, art and music. Some 20 teachers from different schools and universities work with the Centre on a voluntary basis. The Nicosia Mother Centre also helps women to sell their handicrafts on the market and by organising events.

India

The 12th Women's World Congress (WWC) will take place on 17 – 22 August 2014 in Hyderabad, India. The theme of the conference is "Gender in a Changing World", which will be hosted by Professor Rekha Pande at the University of Hyderabad. Numerous issues will be discussed throughout the conference, where the topic of women in education will feature in several panels including "Education in Applied Sciences for the Empowerment of Women" and "Higher Education: A Tool for Women's Empowerment". Several IFUW members from various national federations and associations (NFAs) will participate in the event. The full programme can be viewed [here](#).

The WWC will be followed by the triennial conference of the Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA), which will take place in Pune, India, 22 – 24 August. The triennial conference will, amongst other things, include a seminar on "The Role of NGOs in Education". Members from different

University Women's Associations (UWAs) of India will also present on the "Contribution of UWAs in Education".

Canada

Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, paid a visit to the National Office of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) on 12 August 2014 to meet with representatives of the organisation to discuss her ongoing work to promote Afghan women's rights. [Read more on CFUW's blog.](#)

Advocacy

The UN Human Rights Council

The 27th Session of the United Nations [Human Rights Council](#) (HRC) will take place from 8 – 26 September 2014, at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The HRC is an inter-governmental, subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly. It was formed in 2006, replacing its predecessor the UN Commission on Human Rights. Forty-seven member states sit on the HRC, representing a geographic distribution of the five [UN regional groups](#). The seats are allocated, per region, as follows: African Group -13 members; Asia-Pacific Group - 13 members; Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) - 8 members; Western European and Others Group (WEOG) [which also includes Canada, the United States of America, Israel and Turkey] - 7 members; and Eastern European Group (EEG) - 6 members. Each member has a term of three years and is elected by the UN General Assembly. The overall function of the HRC is to ensure the universal respect for, and protection of, all human rights (resolution 60/251). One of the primary mechanisms of the HRC is the [Universal Periodic Review](#) (UPR) - a human rights examination that each UN member state must undertake every four and a half years. IFUW staff members and UN representatives will be attending the session in September to represent IFUW's mission.

World Humanitarian Day 2014

19 August 2014 marked [World Humanitarian Day](#), a time to recognise those who face danger and adversity in order to help others. The critical role of women humanitarian workers was praised by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, who highlighted, "As we celebrate World Humanitarian Day, I pay tribute to humanitarian workers who help pregnant women deliver safely and protect women and girls from gender-based violence. These humanitarian heroes extend hope as they strive to save lives and protect human rights and dignity in extremely difficult situations." Read [more](#).

Proposals & Workshops

The Asian Women in Business Scholarship Fund

The Asian Women In Business (AWIB) Scholarship encourages and promotes exceptional Asian female students who have demonstrated scholarship, leadership, community service and/ or entrepreneurship. The AWIB Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to students who have the attributes to be our next generation of leaders.

Deadline: **1 October 2014**. Eligibility criteria are available [here](#).

IFUW recommends!

Recommended reading available in bookshops or online:

Dr Spencer Johnson, **Who Moved My Cheese?** 1999: Vermilion, UK.

John Kotter, Holger Rathgeber, **Our Iceberg is Melting**. 2006: St. Martin's Press, USA.

Other information and events

August 17-22	Women's World Congress , Hyderabad, India
August 31 - Sep 6	Women in Leadership (Rwanda): An Experiential Learning and Friendship Tour
September 4 - 7	University Women Europe AGM, Bucharest, Romania
September 5-7	UNITAR-Yale Conference , USA
September 12 - 14	Women Graduates USA AGM , Salt Lake City, USA
September 17 - 19	Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Fifth International Conference , Mexico
September 19 - 20	IFUW workshop on "Building membership & visibility" , Mexico
September 26	Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet) Council Meeting
September 26-28	New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) Conference 'Women Empowering Women as Leaders'
September 28- 30	Third Forum on NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, Bulgaria

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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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