



IFUW Update – 24 September 2014



(IFUW, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), UN Women and the Museum of Women, host seminar on quality education in Latin America)

International Federation of University Women news



IFUW facilitates Latin American capacity building workshop

On 19 – 20 September, IFUW staff members Danièle Castle, Caroline Staffell and Aoife Hegarty facilitated a workshop in Mexico City, Mexico, focussing on how IFUW national federations and associations (NFAs) could help grow their organisations. The two-day event, co-funded by the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF), saw members from Mexico, El Salvador, Panama and Costa Rica come together to participate in the interactive event, which included both group activities and plenary facilitation. The workshop aimed to build capacity through creating an action plan, including how to incorporate membership benefits, as a means to encourage leadership and the uptake of new members. The workshop concluded in all groups signing a commitment to realise their action plans before being presented with a certificate of participation. Visit IFUW's [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#) for pictures.

IFUW participate in UN Human Rights Council side event

On 8 September 2014 IFUW contributed to a global dialogue concerning women's empowerment and education at a United Nations Human Rights Council side event jointly organised by the Global Network for Rights and Development and the Ma'arij Foundation for Peace and Development. On the panel, Caroline Staffell, IFUW International Development Manager, spoke on the impact of education in women's economic independence and the importance of the transition of girls from primary to

secondary education, which is often limited by societal, cultural, contextual, and infrastructural barriers. Read [more](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Mexico

The Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), in partnership with IFUW, UN Women (ONU Mujeres) and the Museum of Women, co-hosted a seminar on “Quality Education: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women in Latin America”. The panel speakers represented diverse and multi-sectoral professional backgrounds including academia, business, international organisations and Ministry of Education (SEP). While recognising the significant progress that has been made in the region in terms of closing the gender gap in education, the discussion identified certain socio-cultural barriers that still need to be tackled at a national and regional level to ensure greater equality in the lifelong education of girls and women. Topics including the importance of educating women in financial literacy, the compilation of gender disaggregated data and the continuing glass ceiling in management positions all featured in the dynamic and engaging discussion. You can read more in IFUW’s [press release](#) on the event.

Canada

On International Literacy Day (8 September), the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) called on federal, provincial and territorial governments to address the troubling growth in low literacy among Canadians. According to the latest Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) carried out by Statistics Canada on behalf of the OECD, 48% of the Canadian population has literacy skills below level 3, the internationally accepted level required to function in a modern society and to be fully able in many jobs. Read more [here](#).

Advocacy

Human Rights Education and Learning

IFUW UN Representative Nina Joyce co-organised a side event on the occasion of the 27th Session of the UN Human Rights Council on “Human Rights Education: Media Professionals and Journalists Make A Difference!” The session was co-sponsored by the Platform for Human Rights Education & Training (Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, and Switzerland). Anne Bennett from [Hirondelle USA](#) participated in the event as the keynote speaker. Discussions included the relevance of human rights education for media professionals, as well as the roles of civil society, young journalists and national human rights institutions.

Proposals & Workshops

Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future

The Schlumberger Faculty for the Future programme, launched in 2004, awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or Post-doctorate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines at leading universities worldwide. Applications can be submitted from 10 September to 14 November 2014. Read more on the eligibility criteria [here](#).

Did you know?

As of January 2014, 9 women have served as Head of State (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Liberia, Lithuania, Malawi, Republic of Korea, and San Marino), while 15 have served as Head of Government

(Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Norway, Senegal, Slovenia, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago). Visit the work of the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) (IPU) for further statistics.

Other information and events

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
October 9	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) film screening and panel discussion (English), Geneva, Switzerland
October 16	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) film screening and panel discussion (French), Geneva, Switzerland
November 17-22	Global Education Conference , Virtual Forum

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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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