



## IFUW Update – 19 November 2014



*The University Women's Association, Pune (UWA, Pune – an affiliate of the Indian Federation of University Women (IFUWA) – disbursing scholarships to undergraduate and post graduate students.*

## International Federation of University Women news

### **IFUW Capacity Building Workshop: “Communities for Action”**

IFUW will hold an Africa regional Capacity Building Workshop on 26-28 March 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, for all our members in the region. This workshop will provide interactive sessions, presentations and useful tools to support engagement of members, while increasing their impact towards their mission through contributing to improved secondary education for girls in their communities. Registration for this members only workshop will open shortly. The event will also include a policy seminar, open to all, on women's entrepreneurship and education in Kenya.

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## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### **Finland**

The Vantaa branch of Finnish Federation of University Women (Suomen Akateemisten Naisten Liitto – SANL) hosted a screening of a film from the series [Women, War and Peace](#) on 30 October 2014. The film “Peace Unveiled” examines the Afghanistan conflict through the eyes of three Afghan women and follows their inspiring campaign to have women's rights protected against the political demands of the Taliban. This film was chosen in particular as one of the Vantaa branch members recently returned from a two-year mission in Kabul where she was involved in training the Afghan police force and was able to provide the audience with first-hand knowledge about the political development since the presidential election. The Vantaa branch invited the two branches from Helsinki (both Finnish and Swedish speaking) and the Espoo branch, and several other women's organisations, including Soroptimist and Zonta, to participate in the screening.

### **India**

The University Women's Association, Pune (UWA, Pune) – an affiliate of the Indian Federation (IFUWA) – disbursed scholarships to undergraduate and post graduate students on 18 October 2014 in Pune, India. A total of 635,000 INR (approximately 10,200 USD) was disbursed among 61 girl students out of 186 applications received. Approximately 540,000 INR (8,700 USD) was received from individual and corporate donors for the UWA Pune scholarship programme 2014-15. The selection was made on the basis of the following criteria: *academic performance* (evaluated by grade lists); *need* (evaluated based

on family income certificate, fee receipts, number of dependents on parents); and *commitment of the applicant* (evaluated through interview).

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## Advocacy

### **IFUW NFA countries at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

The UPR – one of the primary mechanisms of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) – is a national human rights examination that each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States must undertake every four and a half years. Italy, Bolivia, Egypt, El Salvador, and Fiji have all undergone the second cycle of reviews at the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group. IFUW NFAs in these member states can access the background information and documents provided at the review [here](#). The outcome recommendations will be examined and adopted at the next session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2015. The 21st session of the UPR, beginning in January 2015, will review the following NFA countries: Spain, Armenia, Turkey, Kenya, and Sweden.

The full timetable for the second cycle is available [here](#).

### **UN human rights expert conducts seminal country visit to Afghanistan**

The United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women conducted her first, week-long country visit to Afghanistan on 4–10 November. Speaking in advance of her trip, Ms. Rashida Manjoo explained: “I intend to look into the problem of violence against women, its causes and consequences holistically, taking into account all relevant issues affecting women and violence...I hope that as a result of my interactions with government and civil society representatives, I will contribute to the current discussions and efforts in the fight against violence in the country”. Read more on the work and reports of the special rapporteur [here](#).

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## Proposals & Workshops

### **Swedish International Development Agency’s (SIDA) International Training Programmes**

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is calling for applications for its seven training programmes on women’s empowerment and development of the society. SIDA offers advanced international training programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development in the participants’ countries. The Programmes are aimed at developing countries with varying deadlines. The next Programme deadline is for the SIDA Training Programme on Women, Peace and Security closing on **1 December 2014**. More information is available at **Funds for NGOs** [here](#).

### **International Technology, Education and Development Conference**

The ninth edition of the International Technology, Education and Development Conference (INTED2015) will take place in Madrid, Spain, on 2-4 March 2015. The conference provides an opportunity to present projects and experiences in the fields of learning and teaching methodologies, educational innovations, e-learning and new technologies applied to Education, Technology and Development. Interested parties are invited to submit abstracts by **4 December 2014**. More information is available [here](#).

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## Did you know?

27 countries in the world still have gender inequalities in nationality laws. The Office of the High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) highlights three arbitrary distinctions, which account for the discrimination in law. The most extreme nationality laws do not allow mothers to confer their nationality to their children (with no, or very limited, exceptions), which creates the greatest risk of statelessness. Read the full report, including the list of countries, [here](#).

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## Other information and events

November 17 – 22 [Global Education Conference](#), Virtual Forum  
November 18 – 19 [Trust Women](#) Conference, London, Great Britain

November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global  
November 20 [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, high-level meeting  
of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York  
December 3 [International Day for Persons with Disabilities](#), Global  
December 10 [Human Rights Day](#), Global  
December 18 [International Migrants Day](#), Global

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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.

**International Federation of University Women, Fédération Internationale des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40

E-mail: [ifuw@ifuw.org](mailto:ifuw@ifuw.org) Website: <http://www.ifuw.org>