



IFUW Update – 10 December 2014



Eleanor Roosevelt presenting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (November 1949). Image courtesy of Franklin D Roosevelt Library website. Licensed under public domain via [Wikimedia Commons](#).

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW emphasises the fundamental human right to education on Human Rights Day

Today, 10 December, marks [Human Rights Day](#) – an occasion for all nations to take stock of their commitments to promoting and protecting the human rights of all people. IFUW has published a press release affirming and emphasising the right to education as a standalone international human right and an enabler of numerous other human rights. IFUW urges all stakeholders and policy makers, especially within the fields of education and international development, to adopt, implement, accelerate, and adequately finance measurable plans of action to increase access to, and completion of, all levels of education for all people. Read the press release in full [here](#).

IFUW promotes the economic empowerment of women for the realisation of social change

In a recent article published in World Pulse, IFUW explored the critical role of female participation in the economy as a means of promoting gender equality and empowering women. Despite significant progress in recent decades, women's contribution to the labour market and economic growth remains far below its potential. Women experience barriers in almost every aspect of work, and in many regions they perform the bulk of unpaid labour. To help break this socio-cultural norm, education is the most fundamental instrument for empowering women in all spheres of society. Read the article in full [here](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Mexico

On 27-28 November, the Mexican Federation of University Women (Federación Mexicana de Universitarias – FEMU) held its annual seminar in partnership with the University of Colima, Mexico. The theme of this year's national seminar was "For Justice with Equality" (*Por Una Justicia con Equidad*). The two-day event boasted over 40 speakers participating in 11 roundtables on issues related to the main theme: international and national framework of justice for women; criminal justice; justice with a gender perspective; sexual and obstetric violence; civil and family law; work injustice; poverty, femicide and women in prison; human rights; workplace harassment: bullying; justice in university communities; and health. Full details on the seminar can be found in the FEMU newsletter [here](#).

Advocacy

Trek Mount Kilimanjaro to support education for Massai schoolgirls

On 3-10 March 2015, to celebrate International Women's Day, the [Ladies Trekking Club](#) will take on the Marangu trek on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The participants will take a flag to the peak of the mountain to promote the message "Everyone has the right to education". The trek will be led by [Janika Vaikjärv](#), founder of Ladies Trekking Club. The trek is open to both women and men, with spaces still available. Read more about the flag project [here](#) and learn more about the trek, including how to register, [here](#). The Ladies Trekking Club will be supporting [Maasai girls from Mweddo](#) to continue their education by contributing towards school fees. You can make a donation for this inspirational initiative here: <http://ikfoundation.com/>.



Proposals & Workshops

Distance learning course in enterprise development

Enrolment is now open for a distance learning course in "Enterprise Development through Value Chains and Business Service Markets: A Market Development approach to Pro-Poor Growth" prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The goal of this course is to help development professionals to increase the impact, scale and sustainability of initiatives that help small enterprises (SEs) grow, create jobs, and reduce poverty. The deadline for registration is: **16 March 2015**. Register [here](#).

Did you know?

Building on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to achieve universal primary education by 2015 [[Goal 2](#)], the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) [[Goal 4](#)] specifically calls for complete free, equitable and quality primary *and secondary* education for girls and boys by 2030. The statistics emphasise the extent of the challenge facing the international community in order to reach the target: as of 2012, [58 million](#) children of primary school age and another 63 million children of lower secondary school age were still out of school, the majority of whom are girls. Read IFUW's position paper on the post-2015 education goals [here](#).

Other information and events

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| November 25 –
December 10 | UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, Global |
| December 3 | International Day for Persons with Disabilities , Global |
| December 10 | Human Rights Day , Global |
| December 15-17 | International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations , UNESCO headquarters, Paris, France |
| December 18 | International Migrants Day , Global |
-

Follow us on social media!



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 Website: <http://www.ifuw.org>