



IFUW Update - 21 July 2012

Update on Bina Roy Partners in Development - 2012

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) supports projects empowering women and girls through education and leadership development. BRPID grants are awarded to IFUW National Federations and Associations (NFAs) from developing countries on a competitive basis.



Dr Bina Roy (1914-1994), teacher and educational advisor from India, was the first Asian President of the International Federation of University Women (1971-1974). She believed that friendly and supportive links should be forged among IFUW affiliates to provide strong international solidarity, while encouraging and aiding the creation and implementation of projects. Her dream became reality in 1978 with the establishment of the Counterpart Aid Programme. It has since been renamed in her memory, the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme. To date, nearly 60% of IFUW's national federations and associations have participated in the programme, either as project sponsors or donor partners.

This year, the Projects Committee received 11 applications from all over the world; El Salvador, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Fiji to name a few. The projects spanned a wide range of activities, from numeracy and mentoring to tree planting.

After an initial thorough review by the four committee members, two projects were rejected. The others received requests for additional information such as "How will you select the participants?", "How will you arrange the rest of the funding?" and other requests for clarification. It seems that the completion is stronger every year.

After receiving and reviewing the responses from the applicants, the committee has proposed a final allocation for 2012 of CHF 12.462 to nine projects.

The IFUW website will soon be updated to showcase the new projects and we will let you know once they are online. As in previous years, you will be able to visit the website to learn about the projects and to provide support.

www.ifuw.org/brpid

Willemijn van der Meer
IFUW Vice-President

Preparing for CSW 57

The next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57) will be held in New York, 4-15 March 2013. The theme is **elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls**.



As noted in the recently distributed Circular ([Circular 09/2012: Call for Delegates and for Input to IFUW's Statement to CSW](#)), IFUW has begun preparing for CSW 57. We invite members who are interested in providing relevant information and being involved in the preparatory process to send an email to csw2013@ifuw.org, expressing their interest and including their name, the name of their NFA, and their expertise and experience in this area. Further information on CSW 57 can be found on the [official CSW 57 website](#).

Online preparatory discussions for CSW 57

UN Women is organizing an online preparatory discussion for CSW 57 on the priority theme. It will run from 23 July to 2 August, with the first week (23- 27 July) focusing on **primary prevention**. The discussions in the second week (30 July- 3 August) will be on **support services and responses across sectors**.

Anyone wishing to join the online discussion must:

- Register by sending an email to csw57.onlinediscussion@unwomen.org
- Include your name, position, the name of your organization and country
- Write in the subject area 'Register for online discussion'.

An email will then be sent with login and registration instructions within one or two days. Additional information on the online discussion is [available on the UN Women website](#).

Education & Women's empowerment at the Human Rights Council

The 20th session of the UN Human Rights Council met in Geneva from 18 June to 5 July 2012. During this session, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to education, Mr. Kishore Singh, presented his report on "[Normative action for quality education](#)".

Mr. Singh insisted that a holistic approach to improving the quality of education is necessary. This approach consists of a four part framework:

1. a minimum level of student acquisition of knowledge, values, skills and competencies;
2. adequate school infrastructure, facilities and environment;
3. a well-qualified teaching force;



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4. a school that is open to the participation of all, particularly students, their parents and the community.

Mr. Singh recognized three main challenges to the global attainment of quality education:

1. the promotion of quality education while simultaneously ensuring equality of opportunity for socially and economically marginalized groups,
2. enhancing national investment in quality education especially in developing countries, and
3. the regulation of private providers of education.

At the conclusion of Mr. Singh's report, among his nine recommendations, was the **need to “focus on the right to quality education for women's empowerment.”**

The General Assembly adopted [a resolution on the right to education](#) (Resolution A/HRC/20/L.12), calling on relevant stakeholders to increase their efforts so that the goals of the Education for All agenda can be achieved by 2015 and urging all States to give full effect to the right to education. The resolution included **the empowerment of women as one of the key aspects of quality education.**

IFUW Office 2012 Summer Closing

Please note, the IFUW Offices are closed from 20 July to 3 August, inclusive, and will reopen on Monday, 6 August.