



## IFUW Update – 3 July 2012

### Note from the President

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After six months of regularly commuting to Geneva to be in the IFUW office during the week, I am, quite sadly, returning home. However, I am pleased to announce that Anamaria Vere will be Acting Director for the next two months, by which time we expect to have moved forward in the search for a new director. We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Marianne Haslegrave  
IFUW President

### Update on the International Colloquia Project

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Over the past several months, five IFUW national affiliates have held one-day colloquia to discuss the topic of “Female Leadership in Higher Education: Overcoming the Barriers.”

The Mexican Federation (FEMU) was the first to hold a National Colloquium and during the two-day meeting in December last year participants discussed the themes of empowerment through education and financial independence and the role of women in Science.



*Colloquium of the Slovene Union of University Women, 11 April 2012*

Earlier this year in February, the Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (Pune) heard the views of men as well as women in the field of Higher Education because ‘if any social change is to be brought about, it is necessary to change the mind-sets of both men and women’. The consensus was that the situation in India is changing for the better as various Government bodies and NGOs are playing an important role in enhancing the leadership skills of women with the result that today an increasing number of women hold senior academic posts.

April was a popular month for Colloquia with three taking place - El Salvador (AMUES) held the first Central American Colloquium on Women’s Leadership in Higher Education with 25 academics and professional women coming together for lively discussion on topics such as gender mainstreaming, alternatives to traditional university teaching and the creation of gender study units.

Bolivia (FBMPU) held the first of a two-part Colloquium examining the general situation of women in Bolivia and then focussing on Women in Higher Education. FBMPU will host another meeting, this time on a national level, later this month.

In Europe, the Slovenian Federation (SAUW) held a very productive meeting which resolved to call on all Slovenian Universities to analyse the number and role of women in all university departments with a view to improving the current situation.

Other NFAs including Fiji, Finland, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Sweden plan to hold their Colloquia later this year and we look forward to hearing news of their events and wish them well in their preparations.

The reports of these important events together with contributions from national research projects will form the basis of IFUW's International Report.

*Anna Frost*  
*IFUW International Colloquia Project Coordinator*

## CFUW Combats Torture

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From 7 May to 1 June 2012, the Committee Against Torture met in Geneva. During this meeting, the Canadian Federation of University Women's (CFUW) report on Non-State Torture and on the Convention Against Torture came before the Committee.

CFUW, represented by Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, appeared as "expert witnesses." They raised the issue of assault towards children and violence against women as forms of torture committed in the private sphere by non-state actors. They stated that this form of torture is not always taken as seriously as it should be.

CFUW's report breaks the wall of silence that has existed around the issue of non-state torture being recognized as torture and gives a voice to all those who endure torture perpetrated by private or non-state actors. The Concluding Remarks made by the Committee Against Torture provided support, in principle, for CFUW's policy on the criminalization of non-state actor torture.

- [Read CFUW's report on non-state torture](#)
- [Read Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald's Advocacy Report on presentation and attendance at the Committee Against Torture](#)

CFUW also prepared a statement on the right of women to be free from torture perpetrated by non-state actors in the domestic/private sphere. IFUW delivered this statement to the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on 22 June 2012.

- [Watch the statement being delivered by IFUW Representative, Hillevi Perraudin](#)
- [Read the full statement online.](#)

This is a great example of using the advocacy process effectively. Congratulations to CFUW for its outstanding efforts in this area!

