



# FIVE YEARS OF IFUW ACHIEVEMENTS

We've all heard the questions before: **"WHAT DOES IFUW DO?"** and **"WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT IFUW?"** Perhaps you have not been sure how to answer? In response to these questions, here are IFUW's purpose, mission, and a selection of IFUW's achievements from the last five years.

**IFUW's PURPOSE:** IFUW is the leading girls' and women's global organization run by and for women, advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels.

**IFUW's MISSION:** To create a strong global women's network to promote and advocate for the right to quality education for girls and women at all levels, especially higher and further education, so that they can use that education to attain a decent standard of living, personal dignity and autonomy, participation in civil society, and all other human rights.

## PROMOTING SECONDARY & HIGHER EDUCATION FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

As announced on IFUW Day, 1 June 2012, **IFUW AND ITS NFAs GIVE OVER US\$2 MILLION ANNUALLY IN GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.**

The 2008/2009 international competition gave 20 awards: two Masters level studies awards in Public Administration and Architecture and Engineering; fifteen Doctoral research awards in areas such as philosophy of education, medical anthropology, gender and development, regional and urban planning, gender studies, health policy; and three post-doctoral research awards in media art technology, cross-cultural and gender studies and developmental psychology.



The 2011/2012 international competition gave 10 awards for doctoral research in: social policy, anthropology, computer science, African studies, gender and development, education, law, marine biology, resource management and environmental studies, international development policy and international labour migration and development. [Learn more at www.ifuw.org/fellowships/](http://www.ifuw.org/fellowships/)

This year, the **CONCHITA PONCINI JIMENEZ HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP** will be awarded to promote the use of human rights instruments and agreements for the advancement of women and girls. The recipient will receive a prize of 20,000 Swiss francs and will be invited to make an oral presentation of her work at the IFUW Conference in Istanbul. [Learn more at www.ifuw.org/poncini/](http://www.ifuw.org/poncini/)

## THE MULTI-FACETED RIGHT TO EDUCATION HANDBOOK: A GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

highlights the importance of the right to education and gives practical advice in the day-to-day work of education management professionals, interested members of the public, and the various public organizations. The handbook was launched at the 2010 IFUW Triennial Conference in Mexico City. Fifty-six IFUW members from 19 countries participated in the training programme at Conference. The handbook is available on the IFUW website at <http://www.ifuw.org/ea-handbook/>.



At the **55TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)** in February/March 2011, IFUW was honored to be chosen as the respondent on one of two official High Level Round Tables on the priority theme: Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. Professor Joy Carter, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester and a member of the British Federation of Women Graduates, spoke on IFUW's behalf.

IFUW, working in collaboration with the International Planned Parenthood Federation was active in **PROMOTING SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR GIRLS DURING THE ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW** meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held in Geneva at the beginning of July 2011. IFUW representative, Hillevi Perraudin, Coordinator of the Geneva team, also made an oral statement to the Council.

Through **BINA ROY PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT**, IFUW members have, over the last five years, supported more than 50 projects related to the IFUW Programme for Action or IFUW priorities. These projects are run by IFUW's national affiliates in developing countries and countries in transition. The projects contribute to the capacity building of these groups by providing valuable experience on running successful projects.

Over 25 national affiliates have run projects. The projects have included: promoting gender equality in Eastern Europe, training programmes for refugee women, literacy and numeracy projects, health and dental projects, science education for girls, scholarship programmes, income-generating projects, and a project to break the silence on menstruation.

Learn more at [www.ifuw.org/brpid/](http://www.ifuw.org/brpid/)



## SUPPORT FOR “WOMEN IN NEED” AS A RESULT OF WAR, POLITICAL UPHEAVAL OR NATURAL DISASTERS

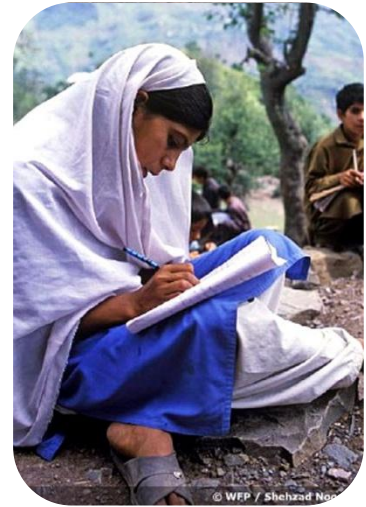
The IFUW **HEGG HOFFET FUND FOR DISPLACED WOMEN GRADUATES** assists graduate women who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies.

For the year 2009/2010, approximately Swiss francs 7,000 were given to six women: an African political refugee in Latvia; an Asian woman seeking political asylum in Great Britain; an African nurse living as a refugee in the USA; an African teacher living as a refugee in South Africa; an asylum seeker in South Africa; a Middle Eastern

doctor living as a refugee in the USA; and a French-speaking African lawyer who fled civil war in her own country. [Learn more at www.ifuw.org/hh/](http://www.ifuw.org/hh/)

Following the floods that devastated Pakistan, IFUW launched the **PENCILS FOR PAKISTAN** appeal in late 2010 to provide school supplies to Pakistani girls. The response of IFUW members was very generous and a total of 9332 Swiss francs were raised. This has helped IFUW to provide text books and writing supplies to girls in three badly-hit areas.

Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March 2011, the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) created a **JAUW DISASTER FUND** to award scholarships to students from the disaster-stricken area so that they could complete their formal education, despite enormous personal losses. IFUW members were encouraged to support this initiative and as a result of their generosity, enough funds have been raised to make awards to support three girls in the last year of high school and two girls in the first year of high school.



## INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

IFUW has teams of United Nations representatives in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna. These **IFUW TEAMS ARE HIGHLY ACTIVE AND VISIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF IFUW AND ITS MEMBERS**. The former coordinator of the Geneva team, Conchita Poncini, was Chair of the NGO CSW Geneva Committee and chaired numerous NGO working groups; the coordinator of the Vienna team, Ilona Graenitz, has been elected as Chair of the NGO Committee in Vienna; the coordinator of the Paris team, Françoise Sauvage was elected as chair of the NGO Committee to UNESCO; and the Coordinator of the New York team, Catherine Moore, has represented IFUW on the NGO Committee on UNICEF and on a number of working groups on girls.

On **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8TH MARCH 2011**, Conchita Poncini organized a panel at the UN in Geneva to address the theme: Celebrating Women's Rights. Higher Education – Pathway to Gender Equality and Decent Work". On the panel were representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Labour Office's Bureau for Gender Equality, and the World Bank. IFUW President, Marianne Haslegrave spoke on behalf of IFUW.

### ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF AFGHAN WOMEN

#### *Joint High Level Panel on "Afghanistan Women and Girls Today – Realities and Challenges"*

In June 2011, IFUW co-sponsored a High Level Panel on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan today. This was held in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and brought together experts from the UN and other organizations working with women and girls in that country. The panelists called for action in a number of areas, among them implementation of a national law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (VAW), increased accountability, greater inclusion of women in the peace-building process and greater access to justice and security.

### IFUW advocates for Afghan Women at the negotiating table in Bonn, Germany

In December 2011, IFUW was approached by leading Afghan women to head an initiative to ensure that Afghan women were adequately represented at the Bonn II Conference that was meeting to discuss the future of Afghanistan. To this end, NFAs were encouraged to contact government leaders to remind them of their obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1324 and calling for the strong representation of Afghan Women at the Bonn conference. The efforts of IFUW members helped to make visible the international solidarity that exists for Afghan women, and let world leaders know that IFUW fully supports UN Security Council Resolution 1325.



## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY IFUW IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ARAB SPRING

**LES OLYMPES DE LA PAROLE – VOICES FOR GENDER EQUALITY**, a public speaking competition founded by the French Association in which issues of gender equality are discussed, will become a pilot project in Morocco. IFUW Vice President, Anne Nègre is assisting with this initiative, which will, hopefully, lay the foundations for the formation of a national affiliate in that country. Anne Nègre has also recently visited the Lebanese Association on behalf of IFUW.

Learn more at <http://www.ifuw.org/what/activities/olympes-parole/>

Visit the IFUW website for more information on activities  
and on how to join:

[www.ifuw.org](http://www.ifuw.org)

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