



## IFUW Update – 17 September 2014



*Indian Federation of University Women's Associations and University Women's Association Bangalore  
(Image courtesy of Dr. Meera Bondre)*

## International Federation of University Women news

### IFUW in World Pulse

IFUW staff member Lorraine Mangwiro recently published an article in the online forum World Pulse on the occasion of International Literacy Day 2014, emphasising the critical need to tackle the global literacy shortfall through concerted local, national and international efforts. The article highlights the disproportionate vulnerability of girls and women, who account for two thirds of the world's estimated 774 million illiterate population. One of the reasons for this high illiteracy demographic is that certain cultural traditions deny women access to education, employment and participation in their communities. As a quintessential foundation for lifelong learning, literacy is the key to transforming the lives of girls and women as well as substantially benefitting society as a whole. Read the full article [here](#).

### Education Seminar, Mexico

On 19 September 2014, IFUW, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), UN Women Mexico/ONU Mujeres, and the Women's Museum in Mexico City, will hold a seminar on "Quality Education: Transforming the Lives of Girls & Women in Latin America". The event will boast a distinguished, multi-sectoral panel including representatives from civil society, government, academia and international organisations. Further information is available at the IFUW [seminars page](#).

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## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### India

The University of Hyderabad, India, was the host institution of this year's [Women's World Congress](#) (WWC), where the theme of the conference was "Gender in a changing world". The Conference Forum was a platform for discussion and networking amongst academics, professionals, educational leaders, government officials and policy makers, industry representatives, NGOs and anybody interested in women empowerment, gender studies, and the safety and security of girls and women. During the event, several IFUW members from around the globe came together to conduct a panel and workshop on "Women's Empowerment through Formal and Non-Formal Education". Amongst the topics were presentations on women in the engineering market in India, higher education as a tool for women's

empowerment and the empowerment of women from migrant and refugee communities in Western Australia.

Subsequent to the WWC, the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) hosted its Triennial Conference in the city of Pune on 22 – 24 August. Dr. Meera Bondre conducted a workshop on membership development entitled, "Building Membership and Nurturing It", which saw participants discuss different means of recruiting and retaining members.

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## Advocacy

### UN Human Rights Council

The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) will convene for its [27<sup>th</sup> session](#) at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland, from 8–26 September 2014. Several gender-relevant topics will be discussed over the course of the session including the panel on The Protection of the Family and its Members (HRC resolution [26/11](#)) and a discussion on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples (HRC resolutions [18/8](#) and [24/10](#)). IFUW will be present at both events and will report on the discussion in next week's update.

### Human Rights Education and Learning

On the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council, IFUW representative Nina Joyce has co-organised a side event with the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education & Learning (NGO WG on HREL) and the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training (Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia and Switzerland). The topic of the open discussion will, "Human Rights Education: Media Professionals and Journalists Make a Difference", looking at issues such as the engagement of media professionals in human rights education as well as and will take place on 16 September, 14.00–15.30 in Room XXIV, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, Switzerland. The discussion will be chaired by Mr. Norman Lizano, Minister Counsellor for the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Geneva, and there will be a keynote presentation by Ms. Anne Bennett, Executive Director of [Hirondelle USA](#).

More information on NGO WG on HREL is available [here](#).

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## Proposals & Workshops

### The Anita Borg Systems Pass-It-ON (PIO) Awards for Women

The [Anita Borg Institute](#) Pass-It-On Awards are now open for applications for woman over 18 years in, or aspiring to be, in the fields of computing. The Awards honour Anita Borg's desire to create a network of women technologists helping one another. The cash awards, funded by donations from the Systems Online Community and others, are intended as means for women established in technological fields to support women seeking their place in the fields of technology. The program is called "Pass-It-On" because it comes with the moral obligation to "pass on" the benefits gained from the award. The deadline for applications is **15 October 2014**. Further information on eligibility requirements is available [here](#).

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## Did you know?

Only two countries out of 130 have reached gender parity at all levels of education? Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women - included the target of eliminating gender disparity in all levels of education no later than 2015. However, as the UN MDG Report [shows](#), girls in many countries are still being denied their right to education, especially at the primary and secondary level.

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## Other information and events

September 19	IFUW and the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), in partnership with UN Women, seminar on <a href="#">“Quality Education: Transforming the Lives of Girls &amp; Women in Latin America”</a> , Mexico City, Mexico
September 19 - 20	<a href="#">IFUW workshop on “Building Membership &amp; Visibility”</a> , Mexico
September 26	<a href="#">Pacific Graduate Women’s Network (PGWNet) Council Meeting</a>
September 26-28	<a href="#">New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) Conference ‘Women Empowering Women as Leaders’</a>
September 28- 30	<a href="#">Third Forum on NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, Bulgaria</a>
October 9	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) <a href="#">film screening and panel discussion</a> (English), Geneva, Switzerland
October 16	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) <a href="#">film screening and panel discussion</a> (French), Geneva, Switzerland
November 17-22	<a href="#">Global Education Conference</a> , Virtual Forum

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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.

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