



## IFUW Update – 22 October 2014



*United Nations Representative Ilona Graenitz representing IFUW at an international meeting in the UN Headquarters in Vienna, Austria*

### International Federation of University Women news

#### **IFUW participates in the World Investment Forum 2014**

IFUW attended the week-long, annual [World Investment Forum](#) (WIF) 2014 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 – 16 October. The event – organised by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – sought to “provide a platform where a debate on ‘investment for development’ can take place and ultimately to promote investment flows that contribute to sustainable and inclusive development.” Gender-specific investment issues were spotlighted during the interactive dialogue on “Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality - The Role of Transnational Corporations (TNCs)”, where UN Women’s Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasised the critical role of lifelong learning for women in the efforts to attain gender parity. The importance of seeing higher participation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) was also highlighted, along with a call for government and the private sector to increase support for “non-stereotyped education”. IFUW staff member Aoife Hegarty participated on behalf of IFUW in the multidisciplinary academic dialogue on “Investment Impact”, which looked at the socio-political- and business climate necessary for long-term commitment from investors. IFUW was selected for participation in the high-profile parallel session on the basis of its written submission detailing its forthcoming “Work-Ready Programme”.

#### **IFUW and AGFDU host screening of “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”**

IFUW, in partnership with Association genevoise de femmes diplômées des universités (AGFDU), hosted a public screening of “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” from the series “[Women, War & Peace](#)” at the University of Geneva on 16 October 2014. The film was followed by a panel/audience discussion, examining the remarkable role of the women’s peace movement in Liberia, during the brutal civil war orchestrated under the regime of ex-Liberian President Charles Taylor. The panel boasted a wealth of in-depth knowledge, which included Emily E. Erskine (Permanent Mission of Liberia to the UN), Maria-Teresa Garrido Otoyá (International Committee of the Red Cross), Stéphanie Metzger Del Campo (AGFDU) and Danièle Castle (IFUW). Pictures from the evening are available on IFUW’s [Facebook page](#).

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# National Federation and Association (NFA) news

## Canada

### **Walking the Camino de Santiago - Fundraiser for the CFUW 100th Anniversary Project**

On 6 September 2014, Susan Murphy, immediate past President of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and her friend Monika Oepkes completed a 22 day - 500 kilometre trek on the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. This walk was a fundraiser for the CFUW Charitable Trust and raised over \$17,000 to help kick-start the CFUW campaign to raise an additional \$100,000 in fellowships and awards for the organisation's 100th Anniversary in 2019. Donations came from the pair's families, personal and CFUW friends and a number of CFUW local Clubs. Susan Murphy said, "We were very grateful for the many generous donations and the encouragement that our supporters gave us along the way. It was a difficult walk but a wonderful experience and it helped to know they were with us."

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## Advocacy

### **#BringBackOurGirls**

The Nigerian government has [announced](#) the creation of a ceasefire agreement with the Islamist group Boko Haram, who continue to hold some 200 schoolgirls captive since their kidnapping in Northern Nigeria in April. The government claims that the girls should be shortly released as part of the terms of the truce, though the group itself has yet to publicly comment or act. You can help keep international attention and political pressure on the release of the girls by joining the #BringBackOurGirls campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **IFUW represented at meeting of UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime**

IFUW UN Representative Ingrid Szabolcs participated in the [seventh session](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (CTOC) in Vienna, Austria, on 6 – October 2014. The CTOC reviewed the progress achieved by States regarding the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto: (i) to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in Person (TFP), especially women and children; (ii) smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air; (iii) illicit manufacturing of firearms and trafficking of arms, their parts, components and ammunition. In her report on the discussion, Ingrid noted the change in the role of victims of contemporary international trafficking, which has shifted from persons being used for sexual exploitation to exploitation on the labour market, including the worrisome practice of smuggling migrants from war zones. An increase in cybercrime was also examined, which often sees a higher number of female victims. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – the only global and intergovernmental body working in [crime prevention and criminal justice](#) - has recently launched a special [programme](#) to target cybercrime.

### **President of European Platform for Women Scientists (EPWS) receives State's highest accolade**

[EPWS](#) President [Dr. Brigitte Mühlenbruch](#) has been honoured with the Order of Merit 1st Class of the Federal Republic of Germany in acknowledgement of her pioneering work in the promotion of women in science at national as well as European level. Dr. Mühlenbruch initiated the [Centre of Excellence Women and Science](#) (CEWS) in Bonn, where she was Managing Director in 2000-2005, managing several research projects funded by the German government and the EU in the field of gender equality in science. Under her leadership, CEWS drafted the winning proposal for the establishment of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) in Brussels and signed the contract with the European Commission in 2005. She received the Order of Merit by the German Federal President Joachim Gauck in Berlin on 6 October 2014 on the occasion of the Day of German Unity.

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## Programmes & Proposals

### **IRO PhD Scholarships for Developing Countries at K.U. Leuven University, Belgium**

As one of its contributions to development cooperation, K.U. Leuven offers scholarships annually to deserving students from developing countries to do their PhD in the largest university of Flanders,

Belgium. The programme is organised and managed by the [Interfaculty Council for Development Cooperation](#). Applicants for the IRO Doctoral Scholarship Programme may choose a research topic proposed by one of the KU Leuven Doctoral Schools (Humanities and Social Sciences Science; Engineering and Technology; and Biomedical Sciences) or applicants may propose their own research topic. Details on eligibility are available [here](#).  
Deadline for applications: **10 November 2014**.

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## Call for interest

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has generously donated a number of DVD copies of the film “To Educate a Girl” to IFUW for distribution amongst NFAs. In 2010, filmmakers Frederick Rendina and Oren Rudavsky travelled to Nepal and Uganda, two countries emerging from conflict and struggling with poverty, to find the answer to one question: What does it take to educate a girl? Framed by the United Nations global initiative to provide equal access to education for girls by 2015, “To Educate a Girl” takes a ground-up and visually stunning view of that effort through the eyes of girls out of school, starting school or fighting against the odds to stay in school. If your NFA would like to host a screening of the film please contact [IFUW](#) to request a hard copy; as the number of DVDs are limited, distribution will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.

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## Other information and events

October 21 – 22	Federazione Italian Laureate e Diplomate Istituti Superiori (F.I.L.D.I.S) <a href="#">annual meeting</a> , Rome, Italy
October 23 – 28	IFUW Board meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
November 3 – 5	<a href="#">Geneva NGO Forum-Beijing+20</a> , Geneva Switzerland
November 6 – 7	<a href="#">UNECE Inter-governmental Regional Review</a> , Geneva Switzerland
November 17 – 22	<a href="#">Global Education Conference</a> , Virtual Forum
November 18 – 19	<a href="#">Trust Women</a> Conference, London, Great Britain
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
November 20	<a href="#">25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</a> of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, high-level meeting of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York
December 3	<a href="#">International Day for Persons with Disabilities</a> , Global
December 10	<a href="#">Human Rights Day</a> , Global
December 18	<a href="#">International Migrants Day</a> , 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**

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