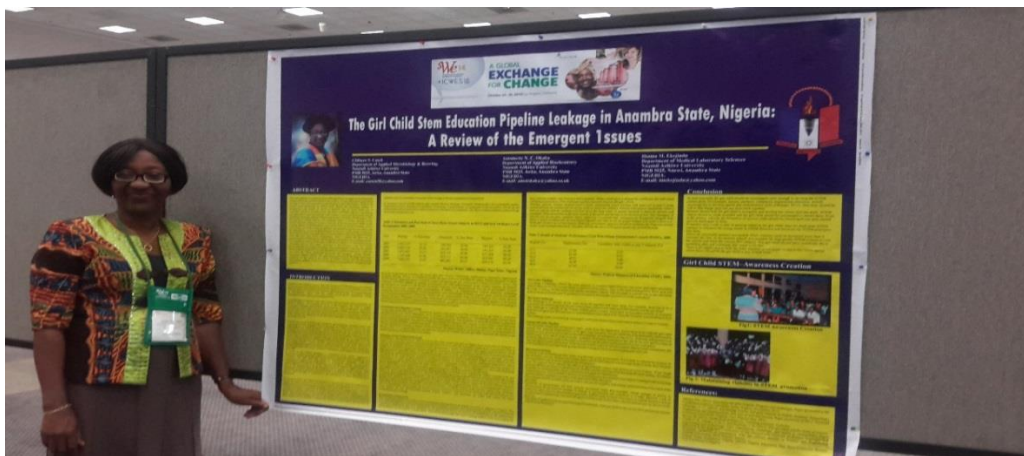




## IFUW Update –5 November 2014



Professor Chibuzo N. Umeh, member of the Nigerian Federation of University Women presents “The Girl Child STEM Education Pipeline Leakage in Anambra State, Nigeria: A Review of the Emergent Issues” 16th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, held in California, USA

## International Federation of University Women news

### IFUW submits written statement to CSW59

IFUW prepared and submitted a written submission to the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women in advance of its [59<sup>th</sup> session](#) (CSW59), which will take place in March 2015 at the UN headquarters in New York. The theme of next year’s session is “Beijing + 20” referring to the twenty-year anniversary since the adoption of the [Beijing Platform for Action](#) (BPfA) – an international agenda that “seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle”. CSW59 will review the progress made and existing challenges in realising gender equality and the empowerment of women across all regions of the world. IFUW’s written submission made recommendations on certain issues highlighted in the BPfA, which are specifically relevant to the IFUW mission: education and training of women; women and the economy; the girl child; violence against and women; women in decision-making; and women and health. Soroptimists International and the Center for Women’s Global Leadership officially endorsed IFUW’s statement.

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## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### Nigeria

On 23–25 October 2014, Professor Chibuzo N. Umeh, member of the Nigerian Federation of University Women South East (SE) Chapter and IFUW member, presented a poster at the 14th Conference of the Society of Women Engineers and the 16th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, held in California, USA. The poster outlined Professor Umeh’s paper on “The Girl Child STEM Education Pipeline Leakage in Anambra State, Nigeria: A Review of the Emergent Issues”. It highlighted the predominance of the “leaky pipeline” for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), where despite an increase in the number of women in STEM, this is not reflected in top level positions. Professor Umeh emphasised the importance of ensuring girls take up STEM subjects in secondary school and transition to university, a time when many young women turn away from a STEM career path. Addressing gender stereotypes and barriers to girls and women progressing in STEM subjects is vital to address the leaky pipeline. Professor Umeh is a Professor of Food Microbiology, and Dean of the Faculty of Biosciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria.

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# Advocacy

## NGO CSW Geneva Forum: Beijing + 20

The civil society group “[NGO CSW Geneva](#)” will host a three-day forum looking at “Beijing + 20” on 3–5 November 2014, at the UN headquarters in Geneva. The aim of the [Forum](#) is to facilitate discussion amongst civil society, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in women’s rights advocacy, where they will review progress made since the adoption of the BPfA, while also identifying persisting challenges in achieving gender equality. An outcome document containing recommendations will be prepared at the conclusion of the forum and will be presented to the [United Nations Economic Commission of Europe \(UN ECE\) inter-governmental regional review](#) on 6 –7 November 2014. IFUW has submitted two written statements to NGO CSW Geneva on the occasion of the Beijing + 20 Forum. The submissions make recommendations on certain issues included in the BPfA and will help shape the overall recommendations adopted in the outcome report prepared by the Forum organisers. IFUW staff and United Nations representatives will take an active part in the Forum, including as moderators and chairpersons of several round tables. Many of our members from the UN ECE region will also attend the Forum, including members from Canada, Great Britain, Russia and Armenia. For our members from countries not part of UN ECE, you can contact your regional group [here](#) to find out about the regional review and how civil society can participate in the process.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Symposium on Preventing Human Trafficking

Public Policy Exchange will host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual international symposium on “[Preventing Human Trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution](#)” on 27 November 2014, at NH Bruxelles Grand Palace Arenberg, Brussels. The aim of the symposium is “to encourage greater political will, facilitate policy discussion and explore comprehensive solutions to properly recognise the needs of all victims of human trafficking”. The one-day event will see keynote addresses from delegates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Registration information can be found [here](#).

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## Programmes & Proposals

### HP Helion OpenStack® scholarship: “Advancing the next generation of women in technology”

Hewlett Packard (HP) offers the **Helion OpenStack®** scholarship for college women pursuing a career in technology. Four scholarships to the value of \$10,000 each will be offered to the successful female candidates, and will include mentorship and potential internships in the future. Deadline: 16 November 2014. Read more about eligibility and application process [here](#).

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## Did you know?

According to [UNICEF](#), more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, 250 million of whom were married before they were 15. Child marriage is a deeply concerning issue that disproportionately affects the girl child. As well having detrimental health implications, child marriage is a significant barrier to accessing education, where girls are often taken out of school to tend to domestic duties and raise families. Read more on the issue in IFUW’s [Policy Position](#) and [Press Release](#).

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## Other information and events

### Conference: Interpreting Non-Violence

On 14 November 2014, Professor Judith Butler will hold a public lecture at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, on the topic of “Interpreting Non-Violence”. Professor Butler, a Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University, has written extensively on gender issues. The lecture will be given as part of Professor Butler’s visit to the University of Fribourg, where she will receive an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Arts. Read more [here](#).

November 3 – 5 [Geneva NGO Forum-Beijing+20](#), Geneva Switzerland  
November 6 – 7 [UNECE Inter-governmental Regional Review](#), Geneva Switzerland  
November 14 – 15 [Finnish Federation of University Women](#) annual general meeting, Kaajani, Finland  
November 17 – 22 [Global Education Conference](#), Virtual Forum  
November 18 – 19 [Trust Women](#) Conference, London, Great Britain  
November 20 [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, high-level meeting of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York  
November 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global  
December 3 [International Day for Persons with Disabilities](#), Global  
December 10 [Human Rights Day](#), Global  
December 18 [International Migrants Day](#), Global

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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.

**International Federation of University Women, Fédération Internationale des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40

E-mail: [ifuw@ifuw.org](mailto:ifuw@ifuw.org) Website: <http://www.ifuw.org>