



IFUW Update –12 November 2014



IFUW UN Representative Professor Manjit Dosanjh presents civil society declaration on Beijing +20 to the UN ECE Regional Review Meeting, at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW publishes article on the education of indigenous women in World Pulse

IFUW Lorraine Mangwiro's recent article for World Pulse examined the current challenges facing indigenous girls and women in accessing education. National statistics expose the gravely concerning *status quo* with regard to literacy rates, where in Mexico, illiteracy amongst indigenous peoples is five times higher than the non-indigenous population. Indigenous girls and women are particularly affected by illiteracy; in Ecuador 40% of indigenous, rural women are illiterate compared to 20% of illiterate men, while in Peru, indigenous women represent 75% of the illiterate population. Gender norms and traditions as well as geographical obstacles are amongst the barriers to accessing quality education for indigenous girls and women. Non-traditional means of education can help tackle these barriers, including by utilising appropriate technology and teaching messages. Read the full article [here](#).

IFUW hosts "Capacity building" workshop in Bern, Switzerland

On 1 November 2014, IFUW, held a workshop on "building membership" for members of the Swiss Association of Graduate Women. Members from across the country came together in Bern to consider how they can better meet the needs of current and prospective members, and how they can provide opportunities for members to be more engaged in the association. Members enjoyed the opportunity to network, develop strategies, and "realise that we are all struggling with the same points" on membership. The day culminated in an action planning session, in which members identified specific membership goals to work on over the coming year.

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

The Netherlands

October 2014 saw the Dutch Association of University Women (Vereniging van vrouwen met hogere opleiding – VVAO) Amsterdam, sponsored by the National VVAO, host a fundraising event for 135 students of Pirsohrab, a high school for girls in Sistan and Balochistan province in Iran. Given the school's location in a very poor and isolated rural area, students – especially girls – experience many difficulties in accessing education. This situation was further exacerbated by a recent earthquake, which demolished much of the infrastructure. Masoumeh Gharej, an Iranian PhD student living in the

Netherlands proposed the initiative, in co-operation with the Yarra Foundation which implements the assistance for the [high school](#). The [Yarra Foundation](#) is a non-profit charity organisation lead by a group of higher-educated Iranians dedicated to helping disadvantaged children access education. The fundraiser raised almost 3,500 Euros, which will cover the costs of 60 girls to go to school for one year. To know more or support the Piroshrab schoolgirls, visit www.yarrafoundation.com or [youtube](#) channel.

Advocacy

IFUW participate at NGO CSW Geneva Forum: Beijing +20

On 3–5 November, [NGO CSW Geneva](#) organised a three-day forum held at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland, to review the progress made and identify the persisting challenges since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995 ("Beijing +20"). Following the Forum, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) convened for the [regional review meeting](#) for Beijing + 20. IFUW was strongly represented throughout both events by staff and UN representatives. Several members of IFUW's national federations and associations (NFAs) travelled to Geneva to participate in the Forum, including members from Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Great Britain and Russia. Numerous roundtables were held during the event, which corresponded to the 12 critical areas of concern from the BPfA. IFUW's Executive Director Danièle Castle moderated the session on "Education and Training", while IFUW UN Representative Professor Manjith Dosanjh convened the roundtables on "Women and Health" and "Science, Technology and Innovation for the Advancement of Women". Professor Dosanjh was also on the Forum's editorial committee; she drafted and presented the outcome declaration and recommendations on the final day of the Forum and at the opening of the UNECE regional meeting. Zoya Apevalova, from the Federation of University Women Russia and member of IFUW, was a panel speaker at the roundtable on "Science, Technology and Innovation for the Advancement of Women". IFUW's recommendations permeated the official outcome document, including the express inclusion of the critical role of providing migrant women with lifelong education and training. Jeanne Sarson and Linda McDonald from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) achieved a remarkable result in having the criminalisation of non-state torture included in the recommendations. Jeanne and Linda have been advocating for over 21 years on the issue of non-state torture against women and the need for its expression recognition as a particular form of violence against women. The full declaration and list of recommendations can be read [here](#). Further information as well as pictures are available on IFUW's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

Scholarships

(ISC)² Foundation Women's Scholarship

To inspire women to join the growing field of Information Security, each year the (ISC)² Foundation will award up to two scholarships totalling up to US\$40,000. Applications are accepted **from 1 January to 31 March 2015**. Read more on eligibility criteria and application process [here](#).

ACM-W Scholarships for Attendance at Research Conferences

The Association for Computing Machinery Council on Women in Computing (ACM-W) provides support for women undergraduate and graduate students in Computer Science and related programmes to attend research conferences. This exposure to the Computer Sciences research world can encourage a student to continue on to the next level (Undergraduate to Graduate, Masters to Ph.D., Ph.D. to an industry or academic position). The student does not have to present a paper at the conference she attends. Deadlines are rolling, with the next applications due by **February 2015**. Read more about the application process [here](#).

Call for information

IFUW asks NFAs to send in information on events, conferences, annual general meetings *etc.* for 2015 that they would like to see included in the IFUW events calendar in the weekly update. Please send the date, location, a brief description and a web link (if available) to [Aoife Hegarty](mailto:Aoife.Hegarty@ifuw.org).

Other information and events

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 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
November 20	25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, high-level meeting of the General Assembly, United Nations, New York
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

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