



IFUW Update – 6 August 2014



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International Federation of University Women news

IFUW publishes Position Paper on Post-2015 education goals

IFUW has published its Position Paper on [Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), focussing specifically on Post-2015 education goals. The paper highlights the need to shift attention from primary to post-primary education, especially for girls and women who are still struggling to achieve gender equality in education. It puts forward several recommendations for governments to combat the barriers to access education for girls and women. The SDGs, the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are currently being discussed by states, NGOs, civil society actors and the United Nations in order to agree on a follow-up agenda for long-term progress in economic, social, cultural and environmental development. Read the paper in full [here](#)

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Canada

Following a [Supreme Court of Canada decision](#) in December 2013 that struck down existing prostitution laws as unconstitutional, the Government of Canada has introduced new legislation. The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) submitted a brief (in [English](#) and [French](#)) to seek amendments to provisions that would continue to criminalise prostituted women for offering or providing sexual services in some public spaces. Several CFUW members also attended a session of the Committee hearings on July 9th, to support members Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson who were invited to appear before the Committee as individuals. They spoke in favour of the bill and asked that the bill be amended to recognise non-state actor torture in the criminal code. You can view the [recording of the session](#) or see the [transcript](#). Prior to the development of the legislation, CFUW also participated in the Government of Canada's consultations (see submission [here](#)), and sent letters to the leaders of political parties in Canada, including the [Prime Minister](#). In 2010, CFUW adopted a resolution on prostitution urging the Government of Canada to adopt a legal framework similar to Sweden. A resolution was subsequently moved and adopted at the IFUW triennial conference in 2013. You can read the IFUW position on prostitution [here](#), and see CFUW's [fact sheet](#) on Prostitution and Human Trafficking.

India

The Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA) launched a project on **"Creating Awareness among Urban Women about Waste Management"**, bringing together the participation of four Indian University Women's Associations (UWA): Delhi, Pune, Chennai and Women Graduates Union (WGU) Mumbai. This was accepted as a national project by IFUWA in its current triennium (2011-2014). Several awareness workshops were conducted, in co-operation with NGOs, schools and colleges. The write up on "Waste Segregation at Source: Key to Better Waste Management" both in Hindi and English was also distributed among students and the general public. Local women living in the neighbouring group housing societies have since become the messengers in their own areas. Essay and drawing competitions, as well as surveys among households were also conducted to raise awareness about the importance of waste segregation and to encourage women to take part in a "Zero Waste" concept. The project also explained to girls and women how to dispose of sanitary napkins in a safe and hygienic manner, through workshops carried out at schools.

Advocacy

Sustainable Development Goals: Zero Draft

The Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDG), established by the UN General Assembly in 2013, has compiled a provisional [outcome document](#), a "zero draft", which outlines 17 goals for post-2015 international development. Though the draft has not yet been formally adopted, it acts as an outline for several follow-up areas from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where countries will be expected to take measures to combat poverty and inequality through investment in multi-sector development. Of the 17 goals which have been drafted, two of them in particular complement and enhance the mission of IFUW. [Goal 4](#), to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all" calls for significant development in education, notably by emphasising the importance of secondary, tertiary and continuing education.

Goal 4 expressly identifies the need to ensure equality and inclusiveness in access to education, including amongst women, rural populations and those with disabilities. Included in the goal is the achievement of universal access to free secondary education for girls and boys by 2030, as well as "equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university."

[Goal 5](#), to "[a]chieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" focuses on combatting numerous barriers to gender equality for women including violence, trafficking, child marriage, female genital mutilation and unpaid care work. The goal mirrors the mission of IFUW in its call for full and effective female participation in leadership and decision making, including by promoting empowerment in technology. IFUW has also issued resolutions on combatting [female genital mutilation](#) and [child marriage](#), which act as significant barriers to accessing education. **Goal 5** also calls for the implementation of legislation that promotes empowerment and equality, including in the fields of reproductive health rights and the economics rights including the right own land and other forms of property. The OWG-SDG most recently convened in July 2014, where IFUW's United Nations Representative Mick Minard attended the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on 6-7 July; she focussed on IFUW's agenda to ensure that secondary, tertiary and continuing education for girls and women are recognised as an integral part of the solution to post-2015 development challenges.

Proposals & Workshops

Bulgaria: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

The [Norwegian Financial Mechanism](#) (2009-2014) is calling for project proposals for the implementation of a number of support services including the establishment of a crisis centre for victims of domestic and gender-based violence. The activities envisaged aim at improving the situation of the Roma population, especially Roma women and girls, who are most often victims of domestic and gender-based violence. Eligible applicants are local, regional, national public institutions and NGOs, established as legal entities in Bulgaria as well as international organisations operating in Bulgaria.

Did you know...?

IFUW in numbers!

IFUW's [61 national federations and associations](#) (NFAs) span all regions of the world. Of the five [UN regional groups](#), IFUW's NFAs are made up of the following: 33% Western European and Others (WEOG); 26% Asia-Pacific Group; 20% African Group; 13% Eastern European Group; 8% Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). Over 23,000 members in 61 locations across five regions, with **one** shared mission: to empower girls and women through access to quality, life-long education.

Other information and events

August 17 - 22	Women's World Congress , Hyderabad
August 31 - Sep 6	Women in Leadership (Rwanda): An Experiential Learning and Friendship Tour
September 4 - 7	University Women Europe AGM, Bucharest
September 5-7	UNITAR-Yale Conference
September 12 - 14	Women Graduates USA AGM , Salt Lake City
September 17 - 19	Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Fifth International Conference , Mexico
September 19 - 20	IFUW workshop on "Building membership & visibility" , Mexico
September 26	Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet) Council Meeting

Looking to make a difference?

A donation to IFUW is a wonderful acknowledgement and helps fund our programmes such as [Fellowships, Hegg Hoffet, and BRPID](#)



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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