



IFUW Update – 23 April 2014



International Federation of University Women news

Interview with an Expert

Ilona Graenitz, Former Member of the European Parliament (MEP)

This month, IFUW spoke with Ilona Graenitz, a former member of the European Parliament and current UN representative for IFUW in Vienna, Austria, to find out about her political career and her advice to other women who would like to advance in politics. Ilona joined IFUW over 40 years ago. [In this interview with IFUW](#), Ilona shares her journey from city politics to European politics, the challenges along the way, and her key to success in politics. If you would like to ask Ilona a question, please [post it on LinkedIn](#).

National Federations and Affiliations news

Mexico

The Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) commemorated the third anniversary of the Museum of Women with the presentation of the paper “Breaking the glass ceiling”, the title of which refers to an invisible barrier for women’s advancement. The glass ceiling in Mexico, like in many other countries, is as real and invisible as the daily discriminations and obstacles that women encounter. [Read more](#) (in Spanish). If you are interested in the theme of glass ceilings, use IFUW’s LinkedIn group as a discussion platform and start a conversation there.

New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Engage Young Members at their Awards Evening

On the eve of International Women’s Day, the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) held an awards evening to recognise their 2013 and 2014 scholarship awardees studying at the University of Auckland, the University of Waikato and Massey University. The enthusiasm of the awardees, their proud parents and supervisors revealed that the event was greatly appreciated and should become a regular feature of the NZFGW year. The awardees enjoyed meeting each other and networking. The NZFGW Charitable Trust Fellows are honorary members of the association for the year of their scholarship. This is a great way to engage young members and get them involved in NZFGW work so that we can build sustainable and long-lasting organisations. If you have an initiative to engage younger members please email it to Caroline Staffell, cs@ifuw.org. [Join the discussion on engaging young women in our associations on LinkedIn](#).

Advocacy

IFUW Day is on 1 June and this year's theme for IFUW Day is "Education for girls and women in detention, displacement and refugee camps". Information has been sent to all NFA Presidents and CIRs. If you are members, have missed the information and would like to prepare your IFUW Day activities, then you can log in to the members only area of the website to access the Policy Update, press release, fact sheet and action ideas [here](#).

Girls in ICT Day

International Girls' in ICT Day is an initiative backed by ITU Member States to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the information and communication technologies (ICTs). International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated on the 4th Thursday in April every year and on 24 April this year. If your NFA is planning any activities that you would like to share with IFUW members, please [email IFUW](#). IFUW advocates strongly for more girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Read IFUW's [STEM brochure](#) and [Policy Update](#).

Call for nominations

Nominations for teaching prize

The Varkey GEMS Foundation, a non-profit organisation established to improve educational standards for underprivileged children, is seeking nominations for a \$1 million prize to be awarded annually to an exceptional teacher. Nominations close on 31 August 2014. [Read more](#)

The Women PeaceMakers Program

The Women PeaceMakers Program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. The programme seeks to project awardees as experts and advocates in gendered peacebuilding processes locally, regionally and internationally. Four peacemakers are selected each year to participate in an eight-week residency at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ), located on the University of San Diego campus in San Diego, California. The programme pairs each peacemaker with a Peace Writer and a documentary film team to document her story and best practices. Selected candidates give presentations on their work both at the IPJ and in the San Diego community and have opportunities to exchange ideas and approaches to peacemaking and justice, increasing their capacity to participate in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts and in post-conflict decision-making. Application deadline is 15 May 2014. [Read more](#)

Other information and events

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| April 24 | Girls in ICT Day |
| April 28-30 | Pan-African Conference on Tackling Inequalities , Accra |
| May 4-10 | Global Action Week on Education for All , UNESCO, Paris |
| May 5-9 | Biennial Conference of the Int. Association of Women Judges, Tanzania |
| May 9-11 | Meet and Greet the University Women of Europe , Amsterdam |
| May 12-14 | Oslo Freedom Forum , Oslo |
| May 23-24 | South African Association of Women Graduates National Conference <i>Peace in our Times?</i> Launch of 90 th anniversary publication " <i>Rights and Wrongs in this land of ours</i> " |
| May 25-29 | Women Advancement Forum , Gambia |
| May 28-30 | Intl Conference on ICT for Development, Education & Training , Kampala |
| June 1 | IFUW Day (IFUW member login required) |
| June 5-7 | Global Summit of Women , Paris |

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| June 30-Jul 18 | 58th session of CEDAW |
| August 17-22 | Women's World Congress , Hyderabad |
| September 4-7 | UWE Annual General Meeting, Bucharest |
| September 5-7 | UNITAR-Yale Conference |
| September 27-October 1 | 3 rd Forum on NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, Bulgaria |

Did you know?

IFUW continually increases its [media coverage](#)! Tell us something we don't know about IFUW – [email us](#)!



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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