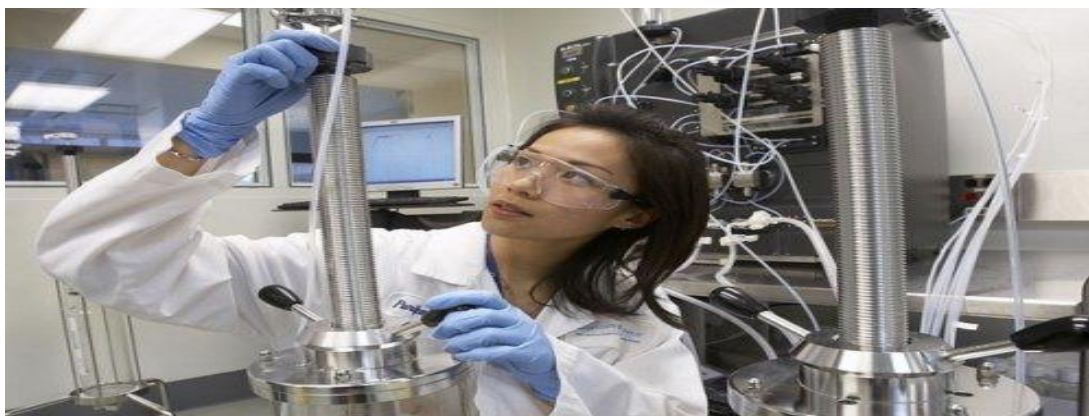




## IFUW Update – 2 July 2014



### International Federation of University Women news

#### **Increasing Access to Education for Girls & Women in Asia: Solutions for Success**

This was the title for a seminar held by IFUW on 30 June 2014, in partnership with the Singapore Committee for UN Women, and IFUW Member, the University Women's Association Singapore (UWAS). Chaired by Danièle Castle, IFUW's Executive Director, speakers, Irene Boey, UWAS; Georgette Tan, Executive Committee Member, Singapore Committee for UN Women; Dr Theresa Devasahayam, Independent Development Consultant for Gender Issues; and Dr Ong Soh Khim, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, National University of Singapore, explored the barriers to education for girls and women in Asia and spoke on practices that have proven successful in addressing them. Georgette Tan highlighted that "we need to remember the end goal" when it comes to girls' education and ensure that they will have the skills needed to gain work later. Irene Boey outlined UWAS' training programme for women prisoners in Singapore and the vital role of such training to provide women with second chances at education and training to equip them for the workforce. The need to move away from gendered norms for girls and women in caregiving, and in subject choice, were identified as vital to address gender gaps in education, and in the success of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Watch out for more details on the seminar in next week's Update.

#### **Towards Gender Parity In Asian Science & Tech**

Ahead of IFUW's seminar on "[Increasing Access to Education for Girls & Women in Asia: Solutions for Success](#)" in Singapore, IFUW published an opinion piece in Asian Scientist magazine. The piece raises awareness among Asia's scientific community of the need to do more to inspire and encourage women and girls to lead in the sciences and in technology. [Read more.](#) [Join the discussion on LinkedIn.](#)

#### **IFUW member, The Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW), commits to expand their reach**

On 21 June 2014, in Dublin, Ireland, IFUW held a workshop on building membership with members of IrFUW from across Ireland and Northern Ireland. Members worked together to consider the current challenges of graduate women in their country. They then explored how they might expand their reach to ensure that more graduate women benefit from their networks and events, as well as have the opportunity to be involved in their work to improve education for girls and women at home and across borders.

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# National Federation and Association (NFA) news

## India

Calcutta - The University Women's Association of Calcutta celebrated IFUW Day on 5 June with two speakers on 'Girls and Women in Detention, Displacement and Refugee Camps' (read IFUW's [Policy Update](#)). The first speaker, Mr Rohit Pombra, is a leading stage artist and a dramatist who worked with 30 residents of correctional homes for one year and trained them to perform a play in English. The second speaker, Ms Madhurima Dhanuka, is a human rights activist who advocates for improved prison conditions and leniency for prisoners who have not been sentenced. She showed that in the state of West Bengal, the previous Inspector General of Prisons made a tremendous change to the lives of prisoners when he allowed yoga, dance, music and drama activities in correctional homes. Regular medical treatment for residents is urgently needed in detention centres. Among female prisoners, gynaecological problems are neglected until they become chronic and irreversible.

Delhi - On the occasion of IFUW Day, 1 June 2014, University Women's Association of Delhi (UWAD) organised a one day Training Workshop on "Personality Development and Leadership Skills" at University of Delhi. Through role-play, games and discussions, 32 student participants explored their strengths and weaknesses and learned ways to equip themselves with the skills to maximise their strong points. Through this workshop, UWAD plans to extend its scholarship programme, to develop 'potential groups' of young girls and also income generating projects.

Dehradun - University Women's Association Dehradun celebrated IFUW Day, 1 June 2014, with the publishing of its Golden Jubilee souvenir and a celebratory tea party. In a discussion among members as to how they had benefited from their membership, members said that they had gained confidence, knowledge and learning. Membership allows them to give back to society and to social causes, especially to those that help young women and girls to enhance their skills and education levels.

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## Advocacy

### Crowdsourcing rape laws around the world

'Crowdsourcing' is the process of an open call for solutions or information from a wide group of people, often volunteers or the public, through online collaboration. The Guardian newspaper (UK) and Equality Now are collecting data for a global database on rape laws. Complete the survey to share information on your country. [Read more](#)

### Girls Education on Twitter (#girlsedu)

The [#GirlsEdu](#) blog series is a collection of posts discussing girls' education and the challenges it faces around the world. [Read more](#)

### Basic education is not enough

An article published on the Huffington Post argues that the global movement to educate girls currently stops short of helping them to attain college degrees. University degrees enable women to achieve the level of education required to become leaders able to shape and change cultures and laws. Instead, women in developing nations typically hit a wall after secondary school. [Read more](#)

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## Nominations and papers

### UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea prize for science

The deadline for nominations of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences has been extended to 15 July 2014. The prize will be awarded for scientific research in the life sciences leading to improving the quality of human life. [Read more](#)

## UNESCO Asia-Pacific Conference on Ethics Education For All

UNESCO invites imaginative skills and critical thinking to its first UNESCO Asia-Pacific Conference on Ethics Education For All to be held in Hua Hin, Thailand from 28-30 October 2014. Paper presentations and participation are welcome from academics, scholars, policy makers, students, teachers and enthusiasts in various disciplines. Deadline is 31 July 2014. [Read more](#)

## Other information and events

July 7-11	ECOSOC High Level Segment
July 11-13	<a href="#">British Federation of Women Graduates</a> AGM, Swansea
July 14-18	<a href="#">Open Working Group Negotiations on SDGs</a> – Fifth Meeting, NY
August 4-12	<a href="#">Kilimanjaro trek for girls' education</a>
August 17-22	<a href="#">Women's World Congress</a> , Hyderabad
Aug 31-Sep 6	<a href="#">Rwanda IFUW Friendship Tour</a>
September 4-7	<a href="#">University Women Europe</a> AGM, Bucharest
September 5-7	<a href="#">UNITAR-Yale Conference</a>
September 12-14	<a href="#">Women Graduates USA</a> AGM, Salt Lake City
September 19-20	<a href="#">IFUW workshop on "Building membership &amp; visibility"</a> , Mexico
September 26	<a href="#">Pacific Graduate Women's Network</a> (PGWNet) Council Meeting
September 26-28	<a href="#">New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women</a> (NZFGW) Conference 'Women Empowering Women as Leaders'
September 27-Oct 1	Third Forum on NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, Bulgaria
October 16-17	<a href="#">International Conference on Women's Education for Sustainable Human Development</a> , Manitoba, Canada
November 3-5	<a href="#">NGO Forum on Beijing+20 UN ECE Review</a>
November 10-12	<a href="#">World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development</a>
November 17-22	<a href="#">Global Education Conference</a>

### Did you know?

IFUW has tweeted its 1000<sup>th</sup> tweet! [Read IFUW's tweets](#) and follow us on at @IFUWWomen. 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.

**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>