



## IFUW Update – 9 July 2014



### International Federation of University Women news

#### **IFUW turns 95!**

Friday, 11 July 2014, will see IFUW celebrate 95 years of empowering girls and women through lifelong education. Founded in London in 1919 by women from three initial countries (Great Britain, Canada and the United States), the Federation now boasts a membership of 61 national associations and federations.

#### ***Building Membership & Visibility, IFUW Asia Regional Capacity Building Workshop, 29-30 June 2014, Singapore***

On 29-30 June 2014, fourteen IFUW members from across Asia gathered in Singapore to explore how they can involve more women in their associations, in IFUW's Asia regional workshop entitled, "Building Membership & Visibility". In this interactive workshop, members analysed the environments they currently work in, mapped out opportunities for partnerships and collaboration, and finally brought together all their learning in an action planning session. Members outlined specific, measureable, achievable, realistic, and timebound (SMART) goals in an action plan which they will implement over the next year, according to their deadline. IFUW looks forward to continuing to work with these members on their action plans. One member commented on the workshop, "*I like all the sessions because they are immediately useful*". [Read more.](#)

#### **IFUW, Singapore Committee for UN Women, UWAS Seminar**

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

On 30 June 2014, IFUW, the Singapore Committee for UN Women, and IFUW Member, the University Women's Association Singapore (UWAS) held a seminar to explore access to education for girls and women in Asia and how the barriers to access can be addressed. Speakers, Dr Theresa Devasahayam, Dr Ong Soh Khim, Irene Boey – UWAS President, and Georgette Tan - Singapore Committee for UN Women Executive Committee Member, were joined by over fifty attendees from across Singapore. In her presentation Irene Boey commented, "There must be second chances at education and training for women in prisons. UWAS provides literacy and skills training for women in prison in Singapore which equips them for work when they are released. Scaling up such programmes can help to prevent reoffending and empower women to have economic independence." [Read more.](#)

## Great Britain

The [British Federation of Women Graduates](#) (BFWG) recently promoted women in science through its Research Presentations Day, where eight promising female science students were invited to present their findings. The speaker judged to have the best presentation received a certificate and a cheque. [Watch video](#). The 104th Annual General Meeting of BFWG will take place at Swansea University on 11-13 July 2014. Several resolutions will be discussed, which lead on from IFUW resolutions passed in Istanbul in 2013, including: women and peace-making; mitochondrial research; forced marriage; gender and Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 development agenda. Workshops will also be held on: director training for current and future directors of BFWG; innovative ageing; the position and education of Afghan women; what is quality education?

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## Advocacy

### UN-CEDAW meeting on the right of girls and women to education

On Monday, 7 July 2014, the United Nations (UN) [Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) convened at Palais des Nations, Geneva, to discuss girls' and women's right to education, as enshrined in the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. [Article 10](#) of the Convention guarantees equal rights of men and women in the field of education, including access to the same curricula, as well as equality "in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training". Several keynote speeches were delivered at the meeting, including presentations by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education. Ms. Barbara Bailey, Chair of the CEDAW Working Group, introduced the General Recommendation on girls' and women's right to education, which was welcomed by numerous Member States and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). IFUW was represented at the meeting amongst the NGOs and civil society groups.

### #BringBackOurGirls

Sign the petition

<https://www.change.org/petitions/all-world-leaders-bring-back-nigeria-s-200-missing-school-girls-bringbackourgirls>

### #Gender justice awards

<http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/sitio/home-nominados.php?idi=en>

### World Cup 2014: Inequality index

The charity Oxfam has flipped football on its head with its Inequality World Cup. Rather than goals, the index looks at competing nations' performance in tackling the gaps in gender and education equality. It highlights a growing global problem and encourages world leaders to level the playing field. [Read more](#)

### Widows in Africa: Half a Piece of Cloth

The UN estimates that there are 245 million widows in our world, and approximately 115 million live in extreme poverty. Author Jane L. Crane examines the plight of nearly 60 widows in seven different African countries in her book *Half a Piece of Cloth*. Through storytelling she documents how cultural factors and superstitions often compound the widows' suffering, putting their children at great risk for little or no education and a life of poverty and despair. Among other atrocities, widows may be blamed for their husbands' death, stripped of assets, subjected to dehumanising widowhood rituals, and are frequently left desperate, without welfare or other safety nets. [Read more](#)

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR) deadlines

21 July 2014: Deadline to submit national reports by States to be reviewed at UPR 20th session (27 October – 7 November 2014)

**NFA countries: Italy, Fiji, Slovenia, Egypt**

## STEM Awards

### Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future

The Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future programme, awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or post-doctoral studies in the physical sciences, engineering and technology at leading universities abroad. The long-term goal of the programme is to generate conditions that result in more women pursuing academic careers in scientific disciplines thus contributing to the socio-economic development of their home countries and regions. Applications for 2015 will open in September 2014. [Read more](#)

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## Other information and events

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
August 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 AGM</a> , Salt Lake City
September 17 - 19	<a href="#">Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Fifth International Conference</a> , Mexico
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>

## Next week's update

IFUW will release its position paper on the Post-2015 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which will come into place when the deadline for the [Millennium Development Goals](#) has passed on 31 December 2015.



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