



IFUW Update – 16 July 2014



Photo by [IICD](#) from The Hague, The Netherlands

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW represented at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

IFUW's United Nations Representative Mick Minard attended the [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) in New York on 6-7 July, where 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.

With under a year and a half to go before the deadline for the [Millennium Development Goals](#) [MDGs] passes, the international community are focusing closely on how we can build and expand upon the progress made in international development post-2015. The post-2015 [sustainable development goals](#) are being discussed by UN Member States, and civil society actors in order to agree on a follow-up agenda for long-term progress in economic, social, cultural and environmental development. IFUW is highlighting the need for a sustainable development goal towards universal access to secondary education. [Ministerial Declaration \(Advanced Unedited Version\)](#)

IFUW participates in Singapore Committee for UN Women screening of UNICEF's film "To Educate a Girl"

On 27 June 2014, Caroline Staffell joined the panel with the Singapore Committee for UN Women after their screening of UNICEF's film "To Educate a Girl", at Studio Room in Singapore. Approximately two-thirds of the 110 million children not in school are girls. The film, "To Educate a Girl" explores what it takes to give girls equal access to education in countries emerging from conflict and struggling with poverty. The film is framed by the United Nations global initiative to provide equal access to education for girls by 2015. After the screening, Caroline answered questions from the audience including what is being done to improve the number of girls completing school as well as the barriers to education for girls, including: child marriage, pregnancy, violence and caregiving, and explored how they can be addressed.

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Ireland and Northern Ireland

Irene Miskimmon, former Secretary of Queen's University Graduates (a branch of the Irish Federation of University Women- IrFUW) has been invited by the Irish Government to sit on the Consultative Group to

advise on input in the drafting of Ireland's Second National Action Plan on "Women, Peace and Security" [UN Security Council Resolution 1325]. It is expected that the Second National Action Plan will be published in January 2015. The IFUW congratulates Irene on her position, which is a great honour and recognition of her tireless work on the issue.

Advocacy

Girl Summit, London

On 22 July 2014, British Prime Minister David Cameron will host the [Girl Summit](#) with UNICEF, which will bring together community leaders, governments, international organizations, and the private sector to build on current efforts and rally a global movement to end Female Genital Mutilation and Child, Early and Forced Marriage. Both issues are strongly influenced by the lack of access to education for girls. For example, if all girls had a secondary education, there would be a [67%](#) reduction in child marriages. As regards the practice of Female Genital Mutilation, [UNICEF](#) highlights that victims of the practice often lack a formal education.

To attend the Girl Summit, register [here](#)

Reducing child marriage through education

As highlighted by [UNESCO](#), if all girls had a primary education, there would be 14% fewer child marriages. If all girls had a secondary education, there would be two-thirds fewer child marriages. Yet every year, approximately [14 million](#) girls worldwide are married before they turn 18. 1 in 9 girls is married before the age of 15. The Global Partnership [Girls Not Brides](#) has developed a 'Theory of Change on Child Marriage' to articulate what an effective response to child marriage entails. [Read more](#) or [take action](#) by sharing the facts and supporting the campaigns.

Proposals, Nominations, Essays & Workshops

UN Women: nominations for youth representatives to the Global Civil Society Advisory Group

The UN Women Executive Director is calling for nominations to include two new members to the Global Civil Society Advisory Group as youth representatives. As the world's population of young people grows rapidly, working with youth is becoming an increasingly important focus for UN Women. The Executive Director would like to make a strong start by including the voices of eminent youth activists in her advisory group. **Nominations should be sent to civil.society@unwomen.org by 31st July 2014, 5pm EST.** [Read more](#)

NILS Science and Sustainability Programme: Call for Proposals

"ABEL- Individual Mobility (ABEL-IM-2014B)"

NILS Science and Sustainability offers the opportunity to scientists in experimental sciences at different stages of their careers to carry out joint research and advanced training activities in subjects related to Earth Sustainability and Human Well-Being.

Priority shall be given to topics dealing with problems related, among others, to climate change, migration flows, natural resources, health, social dynamics and mathematical methods. Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) is the programme operator.

Applications deadline: **20 September 2014**. Budget: €263,516 [Read more](#)

Global Development Network (GDN) Network Horizons Essay Contest 2014 (in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) "The Future of Development Aid"

The world has changed radically since the emergence of official development assistance and since the aid agency was invented. How should aid change? In the lead up to 2015, when many significant financing commitments for development will be made, there is a need to be smart about where and how aid is deployed, based on an understanding of how aid can be most valuable in a given country.

Applications deadline: **15 September 2014 (14:00 GMT)**. Up to 20 winning entries will be chosen, and receive \$20,000 each. [Read more](#)

Did you know...?

The staff and volunteers at the IFUW's headquarters in Geneva represent 9 nationalities: Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Poland, Switzerland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. Putting the international in International Federation of University Women!

Other information and events

August 4 - 12	Kilimanjaro trek for girls' education
August 17 - 22	Women's World Congress , Hyderabad
August 22 - 24	Triennial Conference of IFUWA
August 31 - Sep 6	Rwanda IFUW 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
September 26 - 28	New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) Conference 'Women Empowering Women as Leaders'
September 27-Oct 1	Third Forum on NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, Bulgaria
October 16-17	International Conference on Women's Education for Sustainable Human Development , Manitoba, Canada
November 3 - 5	NGO Forum on Beijing+20 UN ECE Review
November 10 - 12	World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development
November 17 - 22	Global Education Conference



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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