



IFUW Update – 26 March 2014



International Federation of University Women news

Going all the way to the top!

IFUW's Sheila Buemi Moore has succeeded in climbing to the rooftop of Africa for International Women's Day in honour and solidarity with all women around the world and to raise funds for IFUW. She arrived at Kilimanjaro airport in Tanzania at 2.30 am on 1 March. From base camp at 4600 metres a few days later, she trekked to 5895 metres, followed by a big celebration on Uruhu peak. After the climb Sheila visited several girls' schools in Kenya to speak about IFUW and to advocate for girls' secondary education. Thanks to those who contributed some funds to IFUW in support of Sheila's climb.

58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58)

An IFUW delegation of some 20 members attended CSW in New York. This year, in response to member feedback from CSW 2013, IFUW organised three morning briefings, with contact lists, lists of events and other items of information. The Canadian (CFUW) and American (WG-USA) delegations shared their knowledge, knowhow and suggestions. Our UN representatives explained how they can put IFUW members in touch with their diplomatic missions in New York. **NFAs interested in attending CSW 2015 need to start working with their governments and missions now.** The office can assist those who wish to understand how to proceed. For information, please contact [Nina Joyce](#). Don't wait until next year, make the connections now! [Read advocacy reports on CSW58.](#)

Membership Committee

We are sad to announce that Kathy Mumford, Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW), has stepped down from her position as Convener of the Membership Committee. Nezihe Bilhan, Turkish Association of University Women (TUKD), currently serving her second term on the Membership Committee and Acting Convener at the February Board meeting, has agreed to assume the position of Convener on a full-time basis following the Board's request. We are grateful to both ladies for their dedication to changing IFUW and moving it forward towards renewed growth.

Cameroon, Finland, Georgia, India & Sierra Leone

The 58th session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will take place from June 30-July 18. CEDAW is a body of [independent experts](#) that monitors implementation of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#). [Read the country reports on Georgia & India](#). [Introduction to CEDAW](#). The [57th CEDAW session](#) concluded in February 2014. [Read the country reports](#) for **Cameroon, Finland and Sierra Leone**.

India

The University Women's Association, Pune (UWAP), part of [Indian Federation of University Women's Associations](#) (IFUWA), held a ceremony to celebrate women achievers on International Women's Day. One of the women achievers celebrated is Ms Pramila Bhalke, who runs a school for tribal children. She aims to reduce the gap between urban and tribal students by providing a quality education to tribal students and offering the same tools and training found in cities to rural students, including computer training, hygiene and sexuality training, career guidance and mentoring.

Japan

In commemoration of International Women's Day, the [Japanese Association of University Women](#) (JAUW) held a public seminar in Tokyo on March 1st on the theme "Women's and Children's Rights". Yaeko Sumi, a board member of JAUW and a member of the Japanese Government's delegation to the Third Committee of the 67th and 68th UN General Assembly, described the appeals she had heard, especially about human rights violations of women and girls in the world. Tsuneko Maruyama, a former president of JAUW, spoke on her four decade-long lobbying for full commitment to the International Bill of Human Rights. Another former JAUW president, Masako Tanaka, reviewed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender perspective.

Advocacy

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In the next few months, the consultation processes for setting the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) will close. The SDGs will succeed the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) which expire in 2015 and are also known as the post-2015 goals. **The task for IFUW and for NFAs is to call on governments to support targets for universal secondary education for girls and sex disaggregated data on all goals and targets on literacy and numeracy for girls and women.** IFUW will offer free advocacy webinars to members who wish to increase their capacity to advocate. More information on webinars will be available soon. The [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) are targets and indicators for poverty reduction. They were set by the United Nations in 2000 in order to achieve freedom, equality, a basic standard of living, freedom from hunger and violence and to encourage tolerance and solidarity. [Join our discussion on a target for secondary education in the post-2015 development agenda](#).

Gender equality at work

The World Bank has released a report which stresses the need for bold, coordinated actions to advance equal opportunities for women in the world of work, such as addressing gender biases early, expanding women's access to property and finance, and raising legal retirement ages—with major payoffs in tackling poverty. [Read more](#)

Education for All global Monitoring Report

The [2013/4 Education for All Global Monitoring Report](#) shows that there is a learning crisis as ten per cent of global spending on primary education is being lost on poor quality education that is failing to ensure that children learn. This situation leaves one in four young people in poor countries unable to read a single sentence. The report describes how policy-makers can support and sustain a quality education system for all children, regardless of background, by providing the best teachers. There have already been launch events in 26 different countries around the world to present and discuss the report findings. There are still many more to come. [See the full list of events and find one near you](#).

Other information and events

March 3-28	25th Human Rights Council (HRC25), Geneva
April 1-3	World Economic Forum on Latin America , Panama City
April 24	Girls in ICT Day
Apr 28-30	Pan-African Conference on Tackling Inequalities , Accra
May 5-9	Conference of the International Assoc. of Women Judges, Arusha
May 9-11	Meet and Greet the University Women of Europe , Amsterdam
May 23-24	SAAWG National Conference <i>Peace in our Times?</i> Launch of 90 th anniversary publication " <i>Rights and Wrongs in this land of ours</i> "
June 1	IFUW Day (IFUW member login required)
June 30-Jul 18	58th session of CEDAW
August 17-22	Women's World Congress , Hyderabad
September 5-7	UNITAR-Yale Conference

Did you know?

Dr Kamelia Assenova was an award recipient of IFUW and twenty years later she is still a member of IFUW and the [Bulgarian Association of University Women](#)! Tell us something that we don't know about IFUW! Email us at [ifuw\(at\)ifuw.org](mailto:ifuw(at)ifuw.org)



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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