




## IFUW Update – 18 February 2015



**Ensuring education for girls and women and the post-2015 agenda**

Six international women's organisations will be discussing the inclusion of education and economic empowerment for girls and women in the post-2015 agenda. Representing the voice of tens of thousands of women worldwide, a member of each organisation will present their perspective and then open the discussion to the audience. Join us for this exciting event.

**MARCH 11** 14h00 (2 p.m.) Ukrainian National Women's League  
203 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, NY 10003



Join IFUW and partners at CSW 59!

## International Federation of University Women news

### IFUW and partners to champion girls' and women's education at CSW59

IFUW, in collaboration with five leading women's organisations – [Business and Professional Women International](#) (BPWI), [International Council of Women](#) (ICW), [Soroptimist International](#), [Zonta International](#), and [Project 5 - 0](#) – will host a parallel event during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59). The parallel event “*Ensuring education for girls and women and the post-2015 agenda*” will provide a platform for the organisations' panellists and audience members to discuss, amongst other things, the inclusion of a standalone goal for education in the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as the broader post-2015 international plan of action to promote education and gender equality. The event will take place on 11 March, with further details available on the [IFUW website](#). CSW59 will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 9–20 March, and will be attended by numerous members of IFUW's national federations and associations (NFAs).

## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### Canada

The Victoria branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW Victoria) will host a screening of the award-winning film [Wadjda](#) on 5 March, as a tribute to International Women's Day (8 March). *Wadjda* is the first film written and directed entirely by a Saudi woman, in Saudi Arabia. Haifaa Al Mansour's ground-breaking film offers a glimpse into the contradictions and opportunities ingrained in the culture lived by the main protagonist – a 10-year-old girl. The proceeds from the ticket sales will be

divided between Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan and Victoria Women's Transition House. Further information on tickets and venue is available at [CFUW Victoria's website](#).

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## Advocacy

### **New background paper on attacks against girls seeking to access education**

As [recently highlighted](#) by Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN), a new United Nations human rights report seeking to analyse the problem of attacks against girls trying to access education found that schools in at least 70 different countries were attacked in the five years between 2009 and 2014, with many attacks specifically targeting girls, parents and teachers advocating for gender equality in education: "Attacks against girls accessing education persist and, alarmingly, appear in some countries to be occurring with increasing regularity... The educational rights of girls and women are often targeted due to the fact that they represent a challenge to existing gender and age-based systems of oppression." The background paper, which will be presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to contribute to the development of its general recommendation on access to education. Read the [report in full here](#). IFUW [affirms and emphasises](#) the right to education as a standalone international human right and an enabler of numerous other human rights, which must be promoted, protected and provided to all people without discrimination.

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## Grants and Proposals

### **Cartier Women's Initiative Awards**

Since 2006, the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards has supported over a 100 female entrepreneurs worldwide. Each year, 18 finalists are selected, six of whom will become laureates. Finalists get access to coaching, entrepreneurial workshop and media visibility. The laureates receive a unique and comprehensive support package: US \$ 20, 000 of funding, one year of coaching, networking opportunities and media exposure. Deadline for applications: **27 February 2015, 10am (CET)**.

Read [here](#) for more details and to start an [application](#).

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## Legacies in favour of IFUW

As a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, IFUW is sincerely grateful for all donations received from the wills of members and patrons, which make a significant difference in enabling advocacy activities and projects. By leaving a gift in your will to IFUW, you are supporting the organisation to continue its mission to increase access to lifelong education for girls and women globally.

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## Other information and events

February 24	<a href="#">Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy</a> , Geneva, Switzerland
February 25	<a href="#">Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe</a> , Brussels, Belgium
March 1	<a href="#">Zero Discrimination Day</a> , global
March 2–15	<a href="#">Trek Mt. Kilimanjaro for International Women's Day</a> , Kilimanjaro, Tanzania
March 8	<a href="#">International Women's Day</a> , global
March 9–20	<a href="#">Commission on the Status of Women</a> , UN Headquarters, New York, USA
April 23	<a href="#">International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Day</a> , global
May 14–16	<a href="#">2015 Global Summit of Women</a> , Sao Paulo, Brazil
August 20 -23 (2016)	IFUW General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa
August 24 -26 (2016)	IFUW Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa

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## Follow us on social media!



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**

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