



## IFUW Update – 11 March 2015



[Join IFUW](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26 March 2015

## International Federation of University Women news

### IFUW regional seminar Nairobi, Kenya

IFUW, in partnership with UN Women East and Southern Africa, will host a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on *Perspectives on Women's Education for Entrepreneurship in Africa* in Nairobi, Kenya on 26 March 2015. In Africa, the rate of women's entrepreneurship is higher than in any other region in the world, yet a substantial portion of African women entrepreneurs are concentrated in the informal, micro, low-growth, low-profit areas. How can the regional and institutional frameworks better support the transition of women entrepreneurs into more profitable and larger-scale markets? The event will seek to answer this question, acting as a platform for guest speakers and members of the audience to engage in a dialogue, focussing on the role of education and training in empowering African women to become business leaders. For further information [read here](#).

## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### Finland

#### FFUW Contribute to Shadow Report

A shadow report on Beijing + 20 was released on 26 February in a seminar organised by the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The shadow report, which concentrates on issues left out or only discussed superficially in the Finnish national report, was prepared by several Finnish NGOs. The Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW)'s contribution can especially be seen in the chapters on education of immigrants and human rights education. The report was handed to the Minister of International Development with a request that its content should be taken to the consideration when the delegation of Finland presents its discussions at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59).

## Advocacy



*Former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, addresses the panel at NGO CSW New York CSW Consultation Day on 8 March in New York*

### International Women's Day and CSW59

IFUW marked March 8, the global celebration of International Women's Day, by issuing a [press release](#) on prioritising the economic empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda. The NGO Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) New York Consultation Day for civil society groups preparing to attend the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) took place on March 8. The Consultation Day brought together numerous international women's organisations, where several keynote addresses were presented by inspirational women, including former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, and former United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary General, UN Fourth World Conference on Women, Dr. Gertrude Mongella. This year's CSW session is dedicated to reviewing the twenty years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), first introduced in Beijing, China in 1995. A substantial number of IFUW members are participating in CSW, as well as hosting several parallel and side events throughout.

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## Grants and Proposals

### [UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality Issues Call for Proposals:](#)

**Innovative civil society initiatives seeking to spur women's economic and/or political empowerment are invited to apply for funding.**

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality has announced its third [Call for Proposals](#). This year the Fund welcomes submissions from women-led civil society organisations with innovative, high-impact, and multi-stakeholder women's rights and gender equality programmes that help jumpstart progress towards the [Post-2015 Development Agenda](#). The Fund will grant applications in the areas of: women's economic empowerment and women's political empowerment. Interested applicants are encouraged to read the funding briefing carefully and to start preparing for the [online application process](#), which is open on **9 March to 5 April 2015**. [Further information here](#).

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## Donations in favour of IFUW

Give the gift of membership! Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training? Give the gift of membership to join a global community of over 23,000 members in more than 100 countries, either as an IFUW independent member or national member of one of our 62 National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

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## Other information and events

March 2 – 15

[Trek Mt. Kilimanjaro for International Women's Day](#), Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

March 9 – 20

[Commission on the Status of Women](#), UN Headquarters, New York, USA

April 23

[International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies \(ICT\) Day](#), global

May 14 – 16

[2015 Global Summit of Women](#), Sao Paulo, Brazil

May 29

[University Women of Europe \(UWE\) Meet and Greet](#), London, United Kingdom

28 August –

[UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality”](#), the Netherlands

1 September

August 21 – 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.

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