



IFUW Update – 18 March 2015



Solidarity march in New York for International Women's Day 2015. Picture courtesy of Eileen Focke-Bakker.

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW and members participate in CSW59

IFUW and numerous members from all over the world have been attending the fifth-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59). CSW59, now in its second and final week, is being held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. IFUW hosted three meet-and-greet breakfast meetings on 9, 11 and 13 March for all members attending the event. On the afternoon of 11 March, IFUW co-hosted a parallel event with four partner organisations, originally part of the Project 5-O group: Zonta International, Soroptimist International, Business and Professional Women International (BPW) and the International Council of Women (ICW). The topic of the panel discussion examined different perspectives on education for girls and women. IFUW president, Catherine Bell, emphasised the critical role secondary school plays in equipping girls with the knowledge and skills necessary to transition into tertiary learning and to realise economic opportunity. Several IFUW national federations and associations (NFAs) held events over the course of the week, including a side event run by the Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW) and the Finnish government. IFUW's oral statement on the role of economic participation of women is due to be presented later this week. See the pictures on IFUW's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Northern Ireland

Queen's University Women Graduates to host film screening

On 21 March, Queen's University Women Graduates marked International Women's Day with a screening of the film, 'Peace Unveiled (Afghanistan)'. The film is part of a comprehensive media initiative examining the roles of women in war and peace created by the producers [Peace is Loud](#). Queen's Women Graduates invited the President of University Women of Europe (UWE), Edith Lommerse, to introduce the screening. Edith saw recent service (2012-2013) in Afghanistan for the European Police Mission and is personally committed to the advancement of women. In her capacity as a member of the Dutch Association of University Women (VVAO) in Amsterdam she is a mentor for young members.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council has convened at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, for its 28th session, running from 2nd to 27th March. IFUW has co-signed a statement on the role of protecting the media and journalists from attack, in partnership with the NGO working group on human rights education and learning (HREL). Amongst other things, the statement calls on the Human Rights Council to consider a follow up resolution on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, in order to reaffirm the political commitment to provide human right education, as enshrined in the Declaration. Read the Declaration [in full here](#).

Grants and Proposals

The Anita Borg Institute “Pass-it-On” Awards Programme

The Anita Borg Systems Pass-It-On (PIO) Awards honour Anita Borg’s desire to create a network of women technologists helping one another. The cash awards, funded by donations from the Systems Online Community and others, are intended as means for women established in technological fields to support women seeking their place in the fields of technology. Pass-it-on Award applications are open to any woman over 18 years old in or aspiring to be in the fields of computing. Awards are open to women in all countries. Deadline for applications: **22 April 2015**. [Read more here](#).

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.

Other information and events

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 – 1 September	UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality” , the Netherlands
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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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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