



## IFUW Update – 22 April 2015



*IFUW participates at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNECE regional meeting on the post-2015 agenda at United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland*

## International Federation of University Women news

### IFUW represented at UNECE regional meeting

IFUW participated in the [66<sup>th</sup> session](#) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on 14 April 2015, at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland. The seminal meeting saw policy makers from the countries of North America, western, central and eastern Europe and Central Asia convene to discuss the regional political commitments to be adopted in the international framework for sustainable development. The key message echoed by all panellists on the day was the need for multi-lateral, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder partnership, including significant input from civil society and private industry, in order to ensure meaningful change. With only months to go before the formal adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at the [UN Summit](#) in September 2015, IFUW has been actively advocating for express, stand-alone goals for quality, lifelong education and gender equality. IFUW further calls for the inclusion of specific, measurable and relevant targets in order to monitor implementation and progress. IFUW's policy paper on the post-2015 education goals is [available to download here](#). In terms of gender-disaggregated data including public participation, pay gap and higher education across the UNECE countries, IFUW recommends the recent publication: "[UNECE Countries in Figures 2015](#)".

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## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### Finland

The Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW) [*Suomen Akateemisten Naisten liitto – Finlands Kvinnliga Akademikers Förbund ry*] will host an event on "Academic Women's Perspectives on Domestic Violence" on 8 May 2015. The event will take place at 10:00-16:00 in the small festival hall of the University of Helsinki, Finland. The topic of discussion will be combatting domestic violence, including the varying perception and behaviours across Europe. Registration closes on 6 May 2015. For more information on the event, visit the [FFUW website here](#) or contact Professor Emerita Raija Sollamo at [raija.sollamo@helsinki.fi](mailto:raija.sollamo@helsinki.fi).

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## Advocacy

### UPR pre-sessions

IFUW national federations and associations (NFAs) in Niger, Singapore and Sierra Leone have the possibility of drafting a stakeholder submission for the 24<sup>th</sup> Working Group Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Deadline for submissions to the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) is 22 June 2015. Members who wish to

engage with the UPR process are invited to contact IFUW Advocacy & Communications Officer [Aoife Hegarty](#) for assistance or queries.

### UNESCO Director-General receives highest honour

Madam Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, [has been awarded](#) with the Order of the Legion of Honour for distinguished service. The award – the highest accolade awarded by the French Republic – was presented to Madam Bokova on account of her outstanding military and civil contributions. IFUW wrote a letter of congratulations to commend the Director-General on her remarkable achievement, and to thank her for the hard work, leadership and commitment she has demonstrated in her tenure at UNESCO.

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## Grants and Proposals

### Fondation Rainbow Bridge

The Fondation Rainbow Bridge is offering a scholarship for women from Asian or African countries affected by natural disasters, drought or famine to pursue a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at *École des Hautes Etudes Commerciales* (HEC) Paris. The award will enable young women recipients to enrich their academic background at the acclaimed business school. Two scholarships are available to the value of €20,000 each, per year. Deadline for application for the September intake: **15 June 2015**. For information on eligibility [click 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). Further information is available on the [IFUW website](#).

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## Other information and events

April 23	<a href="#">International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Day</a> , global
April 23	<a href="#">World Book and Copyright Day</a> , global
May 14 – 16	<a href="#">2015 Global Summit of Women</a> , Sao Paulo, Brazil
May 19-22	<a href="#">World Education Forum</a> , Incheon, South Korea
May 29	<a href="#">University Women of Europe (UWE) Meet and Greet</a> , London, United Kingdom
June 4–5	IFUW “Communities for Action” Capacity building Workshop, Sofia, Bulgaria
28 August – 1 September	<a href="#">UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality”</a> , the Netherlands
<b>August 21 – 23 (2016)</b>	<b>IFUW General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)</b>
<b>August 24 – 26 (2016)</b>	<b>IFUW Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)</b>

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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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