



IFUW Update – 8 October 2014



9 October 2014

International Federation of University Women news

IFUW and AGFDU to host public screenings of film series “Women, War & Peace”

IFUW, in partnership with Association genevoise de femmes diplômées des universités (AGFDU), will host open screenings of two films from the “[Women, War & Peace](#)” series in the month of October. The first film, “Peace Unveiled” looks at the Afghanistan conflict through the eyes of three Afghan women. The showing will take place at the University of Geneva (Uni-Mail) on 9 October 2014 and will be followed by a panel discussion (in English). The second film, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” is the astonishing story of the Liberian women who took on the warlords and regime of dictator Charles Taylor. The showing will take place at the University of Geneva (Uni-Mail) on 16 October 2014 and will also be followed by a panel discussion. Both the film and panel will be held in French. The screenings are free of charge and are open to all members of the public, students, academics, civil society, media and all other interested parties. For more information see IFUW’s [events page](#).

IFUW calls attention to teacher shortage on World Teachers’ Day 2014

On [World Teachers’ Day 2014](#), IFUW urged all governments and education sectors to immediately develop and implement concrete legislative and policy action to address the looming qualified teacher shortage – a significant, global challenge that threatens long-term sustainable development across all sectors. Ensuring a constant supply of qualified and motivated teachers is a critical step to combat the staggering global illiteracy rates, especially in girls and women, who account for two thirds of the world’s 774 million illiterate. Read the press release in full [here](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

British Federation

The British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of Winchester to foster greater cooperation and understanding between these two higher educational organisations. As a direct outcome of this second MoU, signed on 30 September 2014 (the first was in April 2014 with the University of Chester), a named PhD bursary will be set up to study a topic of mutual interest to both signatories. An exchange of publications and research interests is also seen as a sharing opportunity. This MoU initiative is seen as a formal acknowledgement and development between universities and BFWG.

Panama

At the IFUW capacity building workshop in Mexico, delegate Dr Ana Mora de Wakeland from Panama presented IFUW with her work on the situation of the girl child in her country. The report, complete with presentation, discusses the education and rights of the girl child, teenage pregnancies, sexual violence, child domestic labour and disappearances of girls. The latter, a recent theme in Panamanian studies, related to the trafficking of girls of all ages, a practice that must be halted.

India

During the Women's World Conference (WWC) in Hyderabad, India in August 2014, IFUW members Yeabu Josephine Tholley (Sierra Leone Association of University Women – SLAUW), Fiona Eva Bakas (New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women – NZFGA), Shirley Gillet (NZFGA) and Meera Bondre (Indian Federation of University Women's Associations – IFUWA) [pictured below left to right] co-hosted, "Women's Empowerment through Formal and Non-Formal Education: A Panel – Workshop Combo".



Advocacy

IFUW represented at International Round Table

IFUW United Nations Representative Ilona Graenitz attended the International Round Table on Preventing and Combating Labour Trafficking and Exploitation: Multi-Stakeholder Guidance and Responsibility at the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs in Vienna, Austria on 26 September 2014. The session dealt with the increase in trafficking for labour exploitation, which concerns women and men in different fields of work (construction, agriculture, tourism, domestic work etc.) and the implications and consequences for society. After presentation of the new United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) figures, experts working in the field discussed case studies and trends. The amount of children and youngsters trafficked for begging and/or pocket-picking is rising and is being orchestrated by organised international criminals. These children have no chance to go to school, most of them cannot read or write, and are only taught a few "useful" sentences in various European languages. The full report, as well as all IFUW UN Representative Reports will be available soon on the IFUW website.

Proposals & Workshops

Oak Human Rights Fellowship

The Oak Fellowship annually offers an opportunity for one prominent activist in international human rights to take a sabbatical leave from front-line work to spend the fall semester (September – December) in residence at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, USA. The Oak Institute seeks a frontline human rights activist who works on problems created by or associated with food sovereignty and human rights outside the United States for residence at Colby in the fall of 2015 and is pleased to issue a call for nominations for the 2015 Oak Human Rights Fellowship. Deadline for applications: **5 December 2014**. Read more on eligibility criteria [here](#).

Erratum

IFUW wishes to correct a misleading fact included in the *Did you Know?* section of the weekly update dated 24 September 2014. The correct information should have read “As of January 2014, 9 women **serve** as Head of State, while 15 **serve** as Head of Government”. Many countries worldwide have had former female Heads of Government or State, whom are no longer in office *including*: Australia, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Dominica, Finland, France, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mali, Malta, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the United Kingdom and Ukraine. IFUW apologises for the ambiguity.

Other information and events

October 9	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) film screening and panel discussion (English), Geneva, Switzerland
October 16	IFUW and Association Genevoise de Femme Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) film screening and panel discussion (French), Geneva, Switzerland
October 23 – 28	IFUW Board meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
November 3-5	Geneva NGO Forum-Beijing+20 , Geneva Switzerland
November 6-7	UNECE Inter-governmental Regional Review , Geneva Switzerland
November 17 – 22	Global Education Conference , Virtual Forum

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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.

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