IFUW Update – 10 December 2014

International Federation of University Women news

**IFUW emphasises the fundamental human right to education on Human Rights Day**
Today, 10 December, marks [Human Rights Day](https://www.unhchr.ch/hRI/virtueart/eng/docs.htm) – an occasion for all nations to take stock of their commitments to promoting and protecting the human rights of all people. IFUW has published a press release affirming and emphasising the right to education as a standalone international human right and an enabler of numerous other human rights. IFUW urges all stakeholders and policy makers, especially within the fields of education and international development, to adopt, implement, accelerate, and adequately finance measurable plans of action to increase access to, and completion of, all levels of education for all people. Read the press release in full [here](#).

**IFUW promotes the economic empowerment of women for the realisation of social change**
In a recent article published in World Pulse, IFUW explored the critical role of female participation in the economy as a means of promoting gender equality and empowering women. Despite significant progress in recent decades, women’s contribution to the labour market and economic growth remains far below its potential. Women experience barriers in almost every aspect of work, and in many regions they perform the bulk of unpaid labour. To help break this socio-cultural norm, education is the most fundamental instrument for empowering women in all spheres of society. Read the article in full [here](#).

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**National Federation and Association (NFA) news**

**Mexico**
On 27-28 November, the Mexican Federation of University Women (Federación Mexicana de Universitarias – FEMU) held its annual seminar in partnership with the University of Colima, Mexico. The theme of this year’s national seminar was “For Justice with Equality” ([Por Una Justicia con Equidad](#)). The two-day event boasted over 40 speakers participating in 11 roundtables on issues related to the main theme: international and national framework of justice for women; criminal justice; justice with a gender perspective; sexual and obstetric violence; civil and family law; work injustice; poverty, femicide and women in prison; human rights; workplace harassment: bullying; justice in university communities; and health. Full details on the seminar can be found in the FEMU newsletter [here](#).
Advocacy

Trek Mount Kilimanjaro to support education for Massai schoolgirls
On 3-10 March 2015, to celebrate International Women’s Day, the Ladies Trekking Club will take on the Marangu trek on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The participants will take a flag to the peak of the mountain to promote the message “Everyone has the right to education”. The trek will be led by Janika Vaikjärve, founder of Ladies Trekking Club. The trek is open to both women and men, with spaces still available. Read more about the flag project here and learn more about the trek, including how to register, here. The Ladies Trekking Club will be supporting Maasai girls from Mwedo to continue their education by contributing towards school fees. You can make a donation for this inspirational initiative here: http://ikfoundation.com/.

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Proposals & Workshops

Distance learning course in enterprise development
Enrolment is now open for a distance learning course in “Enterprise Development through Value Chains and Business Service Markets: A Market Development approach to Pro-Poor Growth” prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The goal of this course is to help development professionals to increase the impact, scale and sustainability of initiatives that help small enterprises (SEs) grow, create jobs, and reduce poverty. The deadline for registration is: 16 March 2015. Register here.

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Did you know?

Building on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to achieve universal primary education by 2015 [Goal 2], the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [Goal 4] specifically calls for complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for girls and boys by 2030. The statistics emphasise the extent of the challenge facing the international community in order to reach the target: as of 2012, 58 million children of primary school age and another 63 million children of lower secondary school age were still out of school, the majority of whom are girls. Read IFUW’s position paper on the post-2015 education goals here.

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Other information and events

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<td>December 10</td>
<td>International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations, UNESCO headquarters, Paris, France</td>
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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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