

ICW-CIF

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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN



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Message from the President



Dear ICW Sisters and Friends,

Time flies so quickly. When I look at the calendar I realize that we now have just four months left in the year. It is my hope that each of you will find great joy and satisfaction in all that occupy your time.

Last June, the ICW Spring Board Meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada, from the 20th to the 22nd. ICW Board members one and all enjoyed a marvelous, warm reunion with the NCW Canada sisters. We were fortunate to attend their 124th annual general meeting and especially privileged to experience the celebration of Canada's 150th founding anniversary from 22nd to the 25th of June. We were invited to many of historic and cultural events which had been prepared in celebration of their anniversary.

NCW Canada, past and present, is well known throughout the world as one of the true pioneers in the struggle for gender equality. All of those among us who believe in gender equality, including ICW members, have an enormous debt to the first ICW President, Lady Aberdeen. She founded NCWC during her stay in Canada, and although she passed away in 1939, I can say that her spirit, her wisdom, her philosophy lives on, and is as relevant and moving today as it was when she was living. Fortunately, when we visited the Rideau Hall, Governor General's residence, we were able to have a wonderful time with beautiful memories of Lady Aberdeen's devotion for the advancement of women.

All of our board members were deeply impressed by the passion and energy of NCW Canada sisters to make their AGM successful and to supply fuel for the advancement of women and NCW Canada. I certainly appreciate the warm hospitality extended by all the sisters of NCW Canada during our stay in Ottawa.

In August, I was fortunate to have President Giwo and her team from NCW Indonesia (KOWANI) visit me in Seoul. The primary purpose of her visit was to have an opportunity to discuss details of the ICW General Assembly to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from the 11th to the 17th of September, 2018. We exchanged many, many opinions and ideas about how we can ensure that the various components of the GA will lead to a successful event. I would add here that Yogyakarta is one of the most beautiful and interesting cities in all of Indonesia, full of cultural and historic assets.

Hoping strongly to see you there and expressing in advance my appreciation for your contribution to the Assembly's success !



Jungsook Kim
President, ICW

Report on Spring Board Meeting in Ottawa, Canada

ICW Board, with apologies from Lahee Rhee, Doris Bingley and Martine Marandel, arrived on June 19, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada, to attend the Spring Board Meeting from 20 to 22 June 2017, before participating in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NCW of Canada and celebrations of Canada's 150th Anniversary from 22 to 25 June 2017.



In her Presidential Report, ICW President Jungsook Kim thanked all the board members for attending the 2016 ECM in Taipei as well as Linda Liu and the NCW of Taiwan for their tremendous efforts in hosting the ECM. Regarding the ICW events at the United Nations CSW 61, she noted that the purchase of both online and handbook advertisements for ICW parallel and side events significantly increased the visibility of ICW and attracted a larger than usual number of young people to our events. Jungsook commended the speakers and moderators of the events, expressing her appreciation for their wonderful contributions. She mentioned the side benefit of CSW for ICW board members, delegates and UN permanent representatives to meet each other daily and network with NCW delegations from many countries, such as Canada, Great Britain, Bolivia and Lebanon, etc. Together with ICW Vice Presidents, Linda Liu and Elisabeth Newman, President Kim also took time to visit Huairou Commission's office in Brooklyn to update and discuss the two organizations' future collaboration.

From 28th-30th of April, ICW President Kim traveled to attend ECICW Spring GA in Tunisia, where she had a warm reunion with former ICW President, ECICW President Cosima Shenk and successful meeting with good discussion with other ICW sisters. She was impressed by the NCW of Tunisia's work for violence against women, terrorism and peace, as well as the professionalism of its president, Radhia Jerbi. She congratulated the newly elected ECICW board members and Cosima for her re-election as President of ECICW.

The Finance Committee Chair, Hean Bee Wee, reported on the financial state of ICW, situation regarding the various funds, results of the ECM and affiliation fees. President Jungsook Kim also showed the board members the invoices and bank account statements. She stressed the importance of implementing good financial governance practices that ensure transparency and accountability. The board members were also apprised of the financial results of 2016, which had been sent to the auditor.

Linda Liu summarized the results of the ECM held in Taipei, Taiwan 2016. She also updated the board on the Lydie Rossini Fund project while Elisabeth Newman reported on the small development fund projects. ICW Vice-Presidents Elisabeth Newman and Christine Knock reviewed the work of the standing committee coordinators and advisors. Elisabeth also reported on the work of the UN permanent representatives. The Board appointed Iryna Kurowyckj, Jeanne Kim and Bogena Dergalo (as the youth

representative) as ICW representatives to DPI for the year of 2017.

With ICW Vice President Doris Bingley joining by Skype, the Board focused on new affiliations and revitalization of dormant councils. Jungsook noted that the Secretariat has sent new updated application forms to the national councils that have expressed interest in joining the ICW. She also noted that many young women have expressed interest in joining ICW and wanted the Board to further study ICW membership for young women to gain their involvement in the organization. The Board unanimously endorsed Dr. Kim's suggestion that the board assist the RCA to organize a regional council meeting in March 2018 during the CSW62, when many of the American councils congregate in New York.

ICW President Kim noted that she has brought the most recent ICW newsletters to Ottawa to distribute to the members of the Board and National Council of Canada. To further heighten ICW visibility, the Board approved the establishment of the Publication and Promotion Committee, composed of five to seven members, to work on publications, website and social media etc.

The Board spent the rest of the meeting reviewing the various deadlines for GA documentation and board committees to prepare for the next General Assembly in 2018. They discussed and approved appointments to the committees for organization of the GA. Before the meeting closed, board members agreed to hold the next autumn board meeting in Seoul

Edited from the report by ICW Vice President, Linda Liu

Visit to the NCW Canada

The ICW Board members, headed by the President Dr. Jung-Sook Kim have been invited to Canada on occasion of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Canada Confederation in 1897, both for holding a Board meeting and to attend the 124th Annual General Meeting of NCW Canada between 22nd and 25th June.

The invitation extended by NCWC President and Honorary Life Member Karen Dempsey and the programme organized by them made it a unique occasion to have a stunning idea of the diversity of cultures in the country.

On 21st June, we were taken on a tour to Rideau Hall, the official residence and office of every Governor General since 1867 located only a few minutes from downtown Ottawa and Gatineau. One exciting and emotional moment was when we encountered the stone laid under a tree planted by Lady Aberdeen, the first President of NCWC, who with her energy and enthusiasm



Linda, Elisabeth, Hean Bee, Karen, Christine, Fatos, Jeannette, Jungsook and Isin (from left to right)

helped the rapid spreading of local Councils in Canada.

The Board meetings ended just in time for board members to begin their participation in the 3 full days of NCW of Canada's AGM events, starting with the Welcome Reception organized by the NCW of Canada for their delegates on the evening of 22nd of June. Board members took the opportunity to network and learn about the work of National Council of Canada.

At the first plenary session of AGM, President Karen informed the participants of the achievements of NCWC last year. The Prime Minister of Canada Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau had sent a letter wishing NCWC an enjoyable and productive meeting. Then the ICW Board was introduced to NCWC members.

In the afternoon on the same day, we visited the Embassy of France which is a fabulous example of Art Deco architecture. The Embassy treated us to a tour followed by a cocktail reception. The Ambassadors of France to Ottawa is Kareen Rispal who in talking to us said that she is happy that one of her first events as Ambassador of France is with the members of ICW and of the NCWC. She said that she is personally committed to the cause of women in the promotion of their rights. She added that in her career she has faced issues related to inequality between men and women in terms of career progression and the reconciliation of her professional and family life. She reminded us that the French and Canadian governments are working towards equal representation of men and women.

NCWC adopted various policies for health and societal issues in Canada, such as the treatment of immigration detainees, getting rid of azodicarbonamide, and working together with the aborigine communities.

On 24th June the discussions were continued on the harmful mental health consequences for both children and adults. In the evening we had a banquet dinner hosted by the NCWC Board of Directors which started with interfaith grace and a toast to Queen and Country and to ICW. Karen Dempsey made a speech and introduced the new NCWC Board elected and convenors. Sarah Cohen-Rose, President elect of NCWC, also made a brief speech. The ICW President Dr. Jung-Sook Kim took the floor. In her speech she reported some activities and programs that ICW has done at the UNCSW61 and ECM last November in Taiwan etc. She warmly thanked the NCWC for their arduous work, successful AGM and wonderful hospitality.



Canada's Confederation this year is celebrating its 150th birthday and we are thankful to NCWC members for having invited us, their role in empowering women and improving the quality of life in the community, the successful AGM held as well as their excellent hospitality which ensured us an unforgettable memory.

**Edited from the report by Recording
Secretary, Isin Atala**

Report on Seminar held in Tel Aviv, Israel

『An interesting exploration of “Jewish Wisdom and Education”』

As ECICW President I had the pleasure and honor to be invited by Aviva Kohlman, Vice President of the NCW Israel and former Vice President of ICW to participate in the Seminar she organized on behalf of the NCWJ.



From Ideals to Reality: Gender Equality in Israel

“You are my husband, you are not my master”, said Rina Cohen in her introduction to the Seminar.

Prostitution

In matter of prostitution, both government and NGOs are facing the hard reality of the smuggling of many women from the Eastern European countries and from Russia for prostitution. The eradication of this plague seems to be extremely difficult because those women stay to earn some money and they are not interested in protection measures. Once again, a modern form of slavery.

Another reality: Family law and Gender War

Prof. Daphna Hacker from the University of Tel Aviv stated that there are 2 parallel legal systems in Israel the civil law and the religious court about marriage, divorce and child custody.

Judges tend to ignore the law when it discriminates fathers. 80% of marriage is religious.

A new reality: men's groups completely misogynist have a terrible influence on the society and women are most of the time afraid of getting into a divorce because they may lose their children.

It is often said that women do not really want a career, they prefer to have a family. It might be true, but the problem is that women cannot express their preferences: they don't have the choice.

Definitely marriage is a source of inequality.

Like many other countries, Israel has to face the issues of the refugees, the problem linked to the environment and the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325.

More specific issues like the unsolved question Israel-Palestine and the relations with the United Nations which continuously tensed.

The University of Haifa is a remarkable institution located on Mount Carmel overlooking the city of Haifa and the sea.

Different speakers made for us interesting presentations.

60% of the students are women. The University is also open to non Jewish students with a rate of 37 %.

Prof. Rassem Khamaisi, head of the Jewish Arab Center and other top speakers present a dramatic aspect of the homeless Palestinians in a dramatic refrain "Homeless is my Home", a long and repeated complain about the Israel- Palestinian dilemma.

Mazal Renford, our ICW International Peace Advisor organized for me a visit to East Jerusalem, the Palestinian side of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and I had the pleasure to meet again Fatima Faroun and Antoinette Knissevitch, the 2 Palestinian ladies who attended our meeting in Luxembourg 18 months ago.

In this part of Jerusalem administrated by the Palestinian Authority, one has to face a hard reality of lack of structures, lack of labour and poverty. The population suffers from a high rate of unemployment, in particular for women who despite of proper education do not find a job. In this part of the country, marriage is definitely a major obstacle for women's empowerment.



Mazal Renford(left) & Palestinian Ladies

Conclusion

Judaism, a philosophy of hope, a field that can be explored and is explored and implemented by the grassroots movement in Israel called Women Wage Peace. Thousands of women are engaged and united in their demand for a political agreement between Israel and Palestine. They believe that a peace agreement is possible.

As members of an international women's organization, we all should follow the example of "Women Wage for Peace".

Report by Cosima Schenk
President, ECICW
Immediate Past President of ICW

2017 Report of the ICW UN-New York ECOSOC team

The team consists of the following members: Iryna Kurowyckyj (Main Representative), Dr. Elizabeth Carll, Lauren Cullen, Jeanne Kim, Kathy Adler

『Activities of the UN Team』

Iryna Kurowyckyj serves as corresponding secretary of the NGO Committee on Mental Health(UN NGO CMH) and Co-convenor of the Gender Perspective Working Group of the UN NGO CMH. The Working Group on Gender Perspectives and Mental Health injects a gender perspective on mental health advocacy at the United Nations. We encourage the development and implementation of gender-sensitive mental health policies and programs. We also educate about the importance of improving the overall social status of women since women's well-being and mental health are affected by social inequalities and vulnerability to economic dependence, violence, and oppression. Iryna is also a member of the NGO Migration Committee and NGO CSW Committee where she served for many years on the Reception Committee. She is the immediate past co-chair of the NGO Sustainable Development Committee.



Iryna Kurowyckyj

ICW UN NY has joined the Women's Major Group since this group plays a very important role in UN. The Women's Major Group (WMG) was created as one of the Major Groups after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development held in Rio.

Dr. Elizabeth Carll is the past chair of the United Nations NGO Committee on Mental Health (UN NGO CMH). She currently serves as member-at-large of the executive committee of the (UN NGO CMH) and is the convener of the Global Mental Health and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Working Group of the UN NGO CMH, which focuses on the inclusion of mental health information and services into the UN and global health agenda. Dr. Carll is also the founder and past convener of the Media/ICT Working Group of the UN NGO CMH. She is active in various UN initiatives, and a member of several NGO Committees at the UN including the UN NGO CSW.

Having attended many meetings of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), Dr. Carll has also participated/ contributed to the drafting of outcome statements for the HLPF from the Women's Major Group, the NGO Major Group, and the Health 2030 Agenda Group

Both Elizabeth Carll and Iryna Kurowyckyj attend bi-weekly meetings of the NGO Committee on Mental Health and monthly meetings of the NGO CSW, NGO Committee on Migration and various other NGOs, meetings on the Sustainable Development and meetings of the UN Department of Public Information (such as the May event in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day). We attended events for the Ocean Conference and also followed events on webcast.

The NGO Committee on Mental Health and the ICW are in the process of organizing a Fall 2017 event on health



and well-being and the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the UN, which will include two UN Missions, the WHO Office in NY, and various NGOs. This event will be organized by Elizabeth Carll and Iryna Kurowyckyj.

Lauren Cullen, the President-Elect of NCW, was one of the speakers at the Youth Conference. Jeanne Kim revised the DPI/NGO Annual report which was accepted. She has also written several other reports. DPI UN NY Members can now register and get their new passes. Kathy Adler, a new member of the UN team that was approved at the last ICW Board meeting, but has not as yet received her pass.

ICW was also the main NGO sponsor and co-organizer of two side events for the 2017 CSW Conference. ICW cosponsored the side event in the UN building in New York on "Violence, Crises, Adversity, and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Implications for Global Health and Well-Being for Women and Children" with the Permanent Missions of Jamaica, Belgium, Thailand, and Ukraine, and the WHO Office at the United Nations, New York. This side event focused on women's health and well-being; examining the impact of conflict, violence, adverse life events and stress on health and well-being. This event was spearheaded by Elizabeth Carll.

ICW co-sponsored a second side event in UN Church Center during the 2017 CSW on the topic of "Innovation in Education, Technology & Mental Health for Economic and Social Empowerment" with the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health. This event was spearheaded by Iryna Kurowyckyj.

ICW was one of the co-sponsors of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development held in NY on March 15, 2017; this meeting was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to UN. Our UN team has attended many meetings & UN Conferences one of which was the "International Dialogs on SCD" August 1, 2017.

I wrote about some of the conferences and have sent the reports to the ICW office to be distributed. A few other examples are: "World Press Freedom Day 2017",

"One Humanity Shared Responsibility", and the "UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace"

Dr Elizabeth Carll sent us information on the "High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development", which was the most diverse of topics of all the conferences and sent information on the UN NGO Conference "Intergenerational Dialogues on Sustainable Development Goals"

Unfortunately, other members of my team were not able to send any information as most of them are on vacation at this time.

Since I will have to write a Quadrennial report in 2018 to ECSOSOC, I will need information on how the Councils and the ICW Board are implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and which of the 17 goals play the most important role in their countries or communities.

Report to ICW/ECICW on the High-Level Conference

『UNESCO's Soft Power today: "Fostering Women's Empowerment & Leadership"』

It was my privilege to represent ICW at this important Conference to which I had the honor of being invited by the UNESCO Director- General, Mrs. Irina Bokova, in order to take part as a Panelist in the Session dealing with Women, Peace and Security.

In accordance thus with its efforts toward a greater implementation of a gender responsive 2030 Agenda, and with a view to increasing its world-wide impact for the benefit of women and girls (particularly the most marginalized), UNESCO decided to call a strategic conference on the issue and that a wide range of global partners should be asked to contribute to its proceedings. Indeed, as Mrs. Bokova emphasized:



"The empowerment of girls and women is the new frontier for human rights in the 21st century... development is not sustainable if it is unequal... This is why we must do far more together to uphold the human rights and potential of every girl and woman. The empowerment of girls and women starts on the benches of school with quality education and access to culture and information. Gender equality means literacy. It means access to science. It means genuine possibilities for girls to become everything they wish for and to make their own informed choices. This is essential for human rights, for sustainable development, for the fabric of societies as a whole..."

The Conference, which gathered more than 50 speakers throughout the world, was organized in three thematic sessions:

- Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development: The Power of Women's and Girls Education; Women, Peace and Security
- Breaking Gender Stereotypes: The importance of role models in changing cultural norms; challenging the Status Quo

Leadership and Power: Women in Politics; Women in Business -

This Conference notably provided a unique platform for representatives from academia, the public and the private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to exchange ideas, best practices and relevant experiences aimed at contributing to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, the Promotion of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Incidentally, our dear friend Doris Bingley and other members of the National Council of Malta would surely be pleased to note that Malta's

President, H.E. Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca delivered the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony. The main message of her vibrant address was: "Let us prioritize a zero-tolerance policy, towards patriarchal violence and oppression, thus creating a global culture of respect and dignity, for the benefit of all the people of our world."



To sum-up the lively discussion in the Panel "Women, Peace and Security" in which I participated, we have to move beyond the perspective that women are solely victims of conflict. Instead we have to acknowledge their central role as change makers. Women must be given the opportunity to participate fully and on equal footing with men in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in efforts for peace-building and peace-keeping. As Melanne Verwee, Former US Ambassador at Large for Global Women Issues emphasized: "Enhancing their active participation in all aspects related to peace and security is essential in fostering inclusive, egalitarian and non-violent societies..."

To conclude on a personal note, let me add that the Conference afforded me the pleasure of meeting the ICW representatives to UNESCO and of seeing again Francoise Boutellier (now over 90!) who surely is a model and a dedicated member of our organization, of whom ICW can be well proud!

Report by Mazal Renford
ICW Adviser for International Relations & Peace

Report on UN ECOSOC High-Level Segment

『CHANGING CLIMATE IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY』

Ministers and high representatives of countries met at the United Nations and issued the “Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC High Level Segment” on 10 July, 2017. They reiterated their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, and included this segment:

We “note with concern that poverty remains a principal cause of hunger and that an estimated 793 million people are still undernourished globally, 155 million children are stunted, and other forms of malnutrition are rising. Climate adaptation and mitigation measures involving responsible investments in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries can have positive impacts. We need to urgently and effectively, respond to the rising number of crises and emergency levels of food insecurity now affecting 108 million people, especially for those people that are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine,”(p.4 sect 15)



Wendy Rainbird receiving the Australian Capital Territory Australian of the Year Award for Senior Finalist from ACT Chief Minister.

In July 2017, there have been record-breaking temperatures and heat waves across the northern hemisphere. China, India, and other south Asian countries have had heatwaves in northern areas, and heavy storms and floods in the south. All these events affect the supply of food. The World Food Programme states that there are 20 million people on the brink of starvation, and has issued a Report “Climate Impacts on Food Security and Livelihoods in Asia”

“Poverty is often closely linked to food insecurity. Participatory assessments of poverty consistently identify the poor in terms of food availability—the rich are those who own land and can produce enough food to support the household for a full year, while the poor are landless labourers who rely almost exclusively on food purchases, food wages, or gifts (Gill et al., 2003). Poverty is also linked to the types of livelihoods people engage in. Across Asia, livelihoods remain highly sensitive to climate, with several rural communities engaged in rain-fed subsistence farming.” (p4)

The ICW is aware that women disproportionately live in poverty.

“Agricultural production is facing unprecedented challenges in the Asian continent: ... Higher temperatures in key producing areas typically result in reduced yields of desirable crops whilst extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms can exacerbate food security problems.” (p6)



“Variable weather patterns and extreme climate-related events could affect households’ ability to access food through increases in food prices and impact on livelihood activities. Climate also affects food access – that is, the ability of households to obtain sufficient quantities of nutritious food. (p8)

Research in **eastern India** has linked exposure to recurrent floods to child malnutrition. Households affected by floods have up to 60 per cent higher stunting rates, compared to non-flooded households within the same community (Rodriguez-Llanes et al., 2011). Similarly, droughts can affect the availability of certain types of food with impacts on malnutrition – and higher malnutrition increases the risk of acquiring an infectious disease. (Aziz et al., 1990; Cohen et al., 2008).” (op cit p.10)

“Sea level rise: Over 480 million people in Asia live in low elevation coastal zones below 10 metres above sea level, and are at risk of rising sea-levels (McGranahan et al., 2007). With population growth, the number of people at risk could increase.

Glacier melt. Reliable supply of water from glacier melt is essential, as glacier melt directly provides water to communities in the Himalayas, and indirectly by feeding into the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra Rivers. Under higher temperatures, glaciers could melt at a faster rate with more frequent floods. However, in the long run, this would result in a lack of water due to insufficient water replenishment. This type of flood event therefore requires scientists and practitioners to think about two risks simultaneously (Zemp et al., 2008).”(op cit p.14)

“Between 1980 and 2012, the number of **climate-related disasters** in the region has increased from 100 to over 300, affecting over 230 million people every year, and accounting for 51 per cent of the world’s reported fatalities (1.16 million people).

The evidence indicates that the magnitude, frequency, intensity, or duration of some extreme climate-related hazards will likely increase as a result of climate change. Combined with rapid population growth in vulnerable areas exposed to storms and floods, this scenario highlights the need for better understanding of how climate extremes impact food security as well as the need for better preparedness and adaptation. ” (op cit.p.20)

What can ICW members do? It is important that ICW members become informed about what is happening in their country and region about climate impacts on food security, and likely projections of those impacts made by scientists. Increasingly people will need to adapt and help others to adapt to the changes already occurring. Cooperating to find solutions is a key.

Meanwhile we need to urge communities and governments to take seriously, the commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goal 13: “to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, which means reducing greenhouse gases.

STATEMENT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, 21st September 2017

"Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All". This theme - declared by the United Nations for 2017 - presents intrinsic values which are amongst those at the forefront of women's organizations all over the world. Day after day indeed, through educational programs and activities, we disseminate this set of norms in the complex society in which each one of us live.

In every small community, one can see how women try to preserve these values; women from diverse population groups try to work together, supporting one another, tackling challenges, and marching forward toward justice and rights for women and girls and for marginalized populations such as migrants and refugees, building bridges, transforming fear and despair into hope.

This year, as the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres emphasized, "The International Day of Peace will highlight solidarity with refugees and migrants, bringing people together and reminding them of their common humanity".

ICW - through its affiliates activism and policy advocacy responds to the challenges that arise in diverse societies: to take on issues, to aid weak communities and to focus on rights of women and children, migrants and refugees in order to secure a better life for all.

However, despite the recognition of the role of women in educating for respect, safety and dignity for all, women continue to be under-represented in the processes dealing with peace-building. It is imperative that lessons should be learned from actual experiences to better identify and overcome barriers to women's equal participation. To achieve sustainable and durable peace, it is notably essential to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention and in conflict resolution.

There is obviously a need for women's organizations to make their voices heard in their own national spheres, propose solutions to remove obstacles to gender equality, analyze the existing policy for promoting women's and girls' rights, and serve as local "gatekeepers". They clearly need to be provided with an opportunity for a local discourse and for raising awareness of issues related to the connection between gender, security and peace.

On the International Day of Peace, it is accordingly a must to repeat, again and again, that women and girls should be protected from sexual and gender violence. In such context, it is necessary to expand the policy of enforcement and punishment of perpetrators, to broaden the array of services provided to women and girls in all spheres of life, especially to maintain their personal and economic security. Without that daily battle, we cannot ensure a life of respect, safety and dignity.

As has been rightly emphasized by the poet and writer Francisco Gomes de Matos (IFLAC): "Let us help promote peace; a challenge never to cease".

International Council of Women

NCW News

Women's Union of Russia(WUR)



In February 2017, the annual WUR Conference reflected on results of its activities during the year and outlined new prospects for the future. In February 2017, the WUR representative participated in the international conference "Expanding women's opportunities in the corporate sector" in Astana (the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan). In March 2017, the 8th "Civic Activity" school

brought together 26 representatives from 13 regions of Russia.

In May 2017, we arranged a vibrant ceremony to mark 10 years of the socio-cultural project – the "Fantasy World" Festival: big theatres to little children". During 10 years, meetings and performances in children's social institutions were conducted in 49 regions of Russia.

In June 2017, Moscow saw the successful international conference of women's organizations from the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union "Women's movement in EEU states: diversity and solidarity" attended by women's organizations from five EEU countries: Armenia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Russia.

In June 2017, the WUR hosted the delegation of the Chinese Women's Federation headed by Sja Tse, Deputy Chair and member of the Secretariat, Chair of the Chinese part of the women's council of the China-Russia committee for friendship, peace and development.

In July 2017, the WUR regional chapter in Novosibirsk headed by Nadezhda Boltenko, Chair and member of the Federation Council, successfully conducted the First international congress of CSO and BRICS states "Women's role in modern society: cooperation in politics, economy, science, education and culture". Over 300 participants represented women's organizations of India, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, South Africa and other countries.

In August 2017, WUR regional chapter from the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is holding an auto expedition of the women's council named "Fellowship of women of Asia". Its goal is to promote friendly relations among women's organizations of Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and to share experiences of activities of public organizations.



National Council of Women of Thailand

NCW Thailand attended ACWO Board Meeting in Myanmar

The National Council of Women of Thailand under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen (NCWT) led by Mrs. Sirirat Tamrongterakuland and 3 other representatives :

Mrs. Tippawan Kittisataporn Mrs. Nalinratn Linprachya and Mrs.Sasikorn Hongsakul attended the ASEAN Confederation on Women Organization (ACWO) Board of Director meeting on 3 July 2017 at the Golden Guest Hotel in Naypidaw, Myanmar. The meeting was hosted by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF). NCWT was also honoured to join in the Ceremony of MWAF on the occasion of Myanmar Women's Day.



NCWT attended the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland Celebration



The National Council of Women of Thailand under The Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen (NCWT) presented flowers to His Excellency Mr. Ning Fukui Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Thailand and Mrs. Chu Qingling on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland. The Reception was held at the Grand Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel.

NCW Colombia

This is the report from NCW Colombia and RCA/ICW on their activities in last November. Due to technical difficulties, the report arrived late, last June, 2017, together with the letter of apology to the President, Jungsook Kim. This report is translated into English by the ICW head office. The original report in Spanish follows the translation

The Regional Council of the Americas of the International Council of Women and the National Council of Women of Colombia participated actively in the following events:

1. Board Meeting of NCW COLOMBIA

It was held in May 2016, at the headquarters of the National Council of Women of Colombia located at the Hacienda El Cedro Cultural Center, Office 102, in the Usaqué neighborhood of the city of Bogota DC, where



President, Dr. LUTY ELVIRA
MONTAÑA NEGRETTE

the new President, Dr. LUTY ELVIRA MONTAÑA NEGRETTE, replacing Ms. MISLEN ISMAELA TERZANO DE STOL who resigned due to health problems. During the next two (2) months, the new Board of Directors was dedicated to internal organization, through a campaign linking new organizations and reactivating existing ones.

2. CONGRESS: INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PEACE

It was held on September 17 and 18, 2016 at the Green University of Colombia in its headquarters in Faca (Cundinamarca), where 13 countries participated and the organization linked to the National Council of Women of Colombia and the UNION OF CITIZENS OF COLOMBIA were awarded for the work done with rural women and human rights by means of a plaque and parchment.

3. THE NATIONAL SUMMIT OF WOMEN AND PEACE

Event organized by the United Nations that took place in the Red Room of Hotel Tequendama in the city of Bogota, D.C. from 19 to 21 September this year where women support the PEACE agreements signed between the National Government and the guerrilla organization FARC EP and we committed to work in post-conflict to achieve greater social inclusion and gender equality.

4. THE FIRST FORUM OF WOMEN PEACE MANAGERS

Developed in the THEATER BELARTE of the city of Bogota D.C. the Forum was organized by the National Council of Women of Colombia and affiliated organizations or other organizations that joined the event, according to the PRESS RELEASE, which included women victims of the conflict and indigenous communities, among others. Among the panelists, we have personalities from the Government, the High Council of the Presidency, the Ministry of Interior, the Academy, the Secretariat of Women at the District level, and the Sub-Management of Women in the Department of Cundinamarca between other public entities, with assistance of 200 people. In this event, Dr. CECILIA FERNANDEZ DE PALLINI



Dr. CECILIA FERNANDEZ DE
PALLINI(right)

was decorated with the AWARD of the International Organization of Securities Commissions for the great work done in Culture and Education. In the Forum, a Manifesto on how we see the women in the way for the construction of Peace was elaborated that will be delivered to the President of the Republic of Colombia, Dr. JUAN MANUEL SANTOS CALDERON.

5. INVITATION FROM THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Human Rights, the Congress of the Republic extended an

invitation to the National Council of Women of Colombia in order to participate, in the Hall of the Constitution, where the President, Dr. LUTY ELVIRA MONTOYA NEGRETE read the MANIFESTO produced of the first Forum of the WOMEN PEACE MANAGERS, with much welcome from the main table where, among others, the President of the Congress and the President of the House of Representatives, the Republic of Colombia, Parliamentarians, The Academy and Non-Governmental Organizations working for human rights were present.

6. PROJECTS YEAR 2017

A commission was set up to prepare projects to be presented in January, programs to work on the implementation of post-conflict agreements, especially with children and young people from vulnerable regions in the national territory. It is a project that is integrated with the Culture (Music, painting, poetry, story, dance, recreation and sport) that we will be sending to the International Council of Women in search of support and collaboration.



Members of NCW Colombia

Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia "CNMC"

El Consejo Regional de Las Américas del Consejo Internacional de Mujeres y el Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia, participaron activamente en los siguientes eventos así:

1. CONVENCION JUNTA DIRECTIVA CONSEJO NACIONAL DE MUJERES DE COLOMBIA

Se realizó en el mes de Mayo de 2016, en la sede del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia ubicada en el Centro Cultural Hacienda El Cedro, Oficina 102, en el barrio Usaquén de la ciudad de Bogotá D.C., en la cual se nombró a la nueva Presidenta, la Dra. LUTY ELVIRA MONTOYA NEGRETE, en reemplazo de la Sra. MISLEN ISMAELA TERZANO DE STOL quien renunció por problemas de salud. Durante los dos (2) meses siguientes, la nueva Junta Directiva se dedicó a la organización interna, por medio de una campaña vinculando nuevas



organizaciones y reactivando las ya existentes.

2. CONGRESO: ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE DESARROLLO RURAL PARA LA PAZ

Realizado los días 17 y 18 de Septiembre de 2016 en la Universidad Agraria de Colombia en su sede de Faca (Cundinamarca) donde participaron 13 países y fue condecorada la organización vinculada al Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia, la UNION DE CIUDADANAS DE COLOMBIA por el trabajo desempeñado con la mujer rural y los derechos humanos recibiendo una condecoración mediante un placa y un pergamino.

3. IL CUMBRE NACIONAL DE MUJERES Y PAZ

Evento organizado por las Naciones Unidas que se llevó a cabo en el Salón Rojo del Hotel Tequendama en la ciudad de Bogotá, D.C. del 19 al 21 de Septiembre del año en curso donde, las mujeres apoyamos los acuerdos de PAZ suscritos entre el Gobierno Nacional y la organización guerrillera FARC EP y nos comprometimos a trabajar en el postconflicto, para lograr una mayor inclusión social y equidad de género.

4. 1er. FORO MUJERES GESTORAS DE PAZ

Desarrollado en el TEATRO BELARTE de la ciudad de Bogotá D.C. Foro organizado por el Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia y las organizaciones afiliadas u otras organizaciones que se sumaron al evento, según consta en el COMUNICADO DE PRENSA que adjuntamos donde participaron mujeres víctimas del conflicto y comunidades indígenas entre otras. Dentro de los panelistas contamos con personalidades del Gobierno, de la Alta Consejería de la Presidencia, del Ministerio del Interior, de la Academia, de la Secretaría de la Mujer a nivel Distrital, de la Sub-Gerencia de la Mujer del departamento de Cundinamarca entre otras entidades públicas, con asistencia de 200 personas. En dicho evento, fue condecorada la Dra. CECILIA FERNANDEZ DE PALLINI con el BOTON de la Organización Internacional de Los Valores por la gran labor realizada en la Cultura y la Educación. En el Foro, se elaboró un Manifiesto de cómo vemos las mujeres el camino para la construcción de Paz que será entregado al Sr. Presidente de la República de Colombia, el Dr. JUAN MANUEL SANTOS CALDERON.

5. INVITACION AL CONGRESO DE LA REPUBLICA

En el marco de la celebración del Día Internacional de Los Derechos Humanos, el Congreso de La República, extendió una invitación al Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia con el fin de participar, en el Salón de La Constitución, donde la Presidenta, la Dra. LUTY ELVIRA MONTOYA NEGRETE leyó el MANIFIESTO producto del 1er. Foro MUJERES GESTORAS DE PAZ, con mucha acogida por parte de la mesa principal donde estaban, entre otros, Presidente del Congreso y el Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, de la República de Colombia, Parlamentarios, La Academia y Organizaciones no Gubernamentales que trabajan por los derechos humanos.

6. PROYECTOS AÑO 2017

Se organizó una comisión para la elaboración de Proyectos que se presentarán en el próximo mes de Enero, programas para trabajar en la implementación de los acuerdos del postconflicto, especialmente con niños y

jóvenes de regiones vulnerables en el territorio nacional. Es un proyecto que va integrado con la Cultura (Música, pintura, poesía, cuento, danza, recreación y deporte) que estaremos enviando al Consejo Internacional de Mujeres en busca de apoyo y colaboración.

**Report by LUTY ELVIRA MONTOYA NEGRETE, Presidenta CNMC
and CECILIA FERNANDEZ DE PALLINI, Presidenta CRA**

National Council of Women of Belgium

1 - The "Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique"(CFFB) gathered on March 29th to reaffirm that abortion is an universal, human and undeniable right.

"Mother if I want, when I want, as I want", was the slogan of our campaign.

Because all women have the right to control their body and freely choose their way of life, society needs to secure respect and physical integrity, guarantee for them to live in dignity, without being subject any violence. Therefore, the Council of Women (CFFB) demands the right to free and safe abortion, free and secure access to Planned Parenthood programs and contraception for all women. In other words, guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights.



The symbol of our ongoing campaign is a branch of parsley, used in many countries of South America to practice illegal or clandestine abortions. It symbolizes our mobilization to defend abortion right which is threatened all over the world by religious and political conservatism.

2 - Study "Trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation and prostitution: the weight of organized crime"

The two Councils of Women of Belgium (CFFB and NVR), chaired respectively by Viviane Teitelbaum and Magda de Meyer, organized an international conference : "The growing threat of trafficking in women, sexual exploitation & prostitution: protecting human rights of women and ending violence on October 4th 2016, followed by a press conference on April 26th 2017 to present the study of Claude Moniquet, expert in counter-terrorism and director ESISC, and Genovefa Etienne that clarifies the link between trafficking, sexual exploitation, prostitution and organized crime.



According to Europol, trafficking in human beings is one of the main activities of organized crime, right behind drugs and fraud. The globalization of human trafficking / prostitution is a very lucrative undertaking. Countless

women and children are victims thereof and impunity is widespread. The international network supplying the European "market" comes mainly from Eastern Europe, Asia and Nigeria.

According to the findings of the study, a trend has been developing for several years, arguing that the legalization of prostitution would transform the sex industry into a "normal" economic activity, providing better and legal protection for the prostituted victims and therefore break down the organized crime and networks of pimps in the areas promoting that system.

The authors of the study have proven this assumption to be wrong. On the contrary, in terms of trafficking for sexual exploitation, the response to organized crime lies not in more tolerance against prostitution but in increased repression, with more and effective protection for the victims and in the criminalization of sex buyers to lower the demand in prostitution that feeds trafficking. This abolitionist policy must however be accompanied by funded exit programs and assistance to survivors of prostitution.

3 - Demonstration on the 8th of June in Brussels against all forms of violence against women and girls, with feminist Gloria Steinem

Feminists from Belgium and all over Europe have marched in Brussels on the 8th of June against all forms of violence against women and girls.

Why did we march?

- 50 women are murdered in Europe every week by their partner or ex-partner.
- 1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- Every second a woman is confronted with one or more forms of sexual harassment.



Today, violence against women and girls remains invisible or is normalized. How much more evidence do decision-makers need to take action? How many more women should be beaten, raped, killed, prostituted, harassed, and/or psychologically abused, before Europe finds it unacceptable?

Report by Monique Bargibant, Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique

National Council of Women of Australia



It has been a busy quarter for NCWA. We have held our midterm conference in Canberra in a cold winters week in June. The conference was exciting as we prepared resolutions to submit to government and we worked on updating our strategic plan. We launched the National Council of Young Women Australia by the Minister for Women: Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash at a breakfast at Parliament House.

The National Council of Young Women of Australia with the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, and Minister for Women: Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, NCWA President Barbara Baikie and NCW -WA President Robyn Nolan.



The Governor General, His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Noela O'Donnell AM, NCW Q, Alison Muir NCW Q and Lyn Buckley NCW Queensland President(right)

The Conference opening included a Welcome to Country by Auntie Violet Sheridan, a Ngunnawal Elder and a Welcome to Delegates by the Governor General His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC who kindly accepted the invitation on behalf of his wife Lady Cosgrove who was unable to attend due to illness.

The conference examined the underlying and root causes of poverty and homelessness in older women and violence against women. There was a diverse and respected mix of speakers, with personal experience, practitioners and academics to inform and educate us not

only about the problems that exist but also a way forward.

Eleven resolutions covering a diverse range of topics were discussed and debated. This critical part of the work of NCWA enabled us to engage our newest members – those from the National Council of Young Women of Australia who were able to see how rational and well-constructed frameworks are needed to guide groups towards a consensus.

A conference report is being completed to send to all federal politicians and constitution councils for information and distribution. NCWA will use this report to advocate to Governments at all levels to bring about change. One of the significant recommendations was one to use a multilevel educational, legislation and community

approach to bring about cultural change to attitudes to women. Many other recommendations to address poverty and homelessness of older women will also be put forward.

NCWA is currently reviewing the Strategic Plan and changes to the constitution to prepare for the AGM in October.

Report by Barbara Baikie, President, NCW Australia



ICW Arts and Letters Advisor, Leonie Christopherson

The city of Melbourne in Australia has the largest Maltese population in the world outside their islands. Both countries have active National Councils of Women and are affiliated with ICW.

On Sunday 13 August 2017, a most moving ceremony was held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance commemorating the 75th anniversary of 'Operation Pedestal', the supply convoy from Britain which brought about the relief of besieged and starving Malta during the Second World War.

This year, ICW Arts and Letters Advisor, Leonie Christopherson gave the Commemorative Address at the ceremony. Tributes of Memorial Wreaths were laid as the acrobatic aircraft 'The Roulettes' flew past and Air Force Band played. Young cadets carried the flags of the merchant ships of the convoy that brought the much needed supplies to the tiny island in the middle of the Mediterranean.

Malta had been on the point of surrendering when the battered convoy limped into Valetta Harbour. In gratitude they called it a miracle, and as it was soon to be the Virgin Mary's Saint's day – it possibly was. Invigorated by ten weeks more of vital supplies, Malta was able to fight on and more importantly, disrupt the enemy's supply line to North Africa. This brought about the defeat of Rommel, as he ran out of fuel in the Second Battle of Alamein. It was a major turning point in the 1939-45 conflict.

Leonie paid tribute to the women of Malta, their courage and tenacity during these difficult years and welcomed the many migrants who brought those qualities to enrich our country, Australia, on the other side of the world.

Report by Leonie Christopherson, ICW Arts and Letters Advisor

National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)

At our 124th Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, we celebrated Canada's 150th Anniversary. Joining us in the celebrations were the ICW executive, which gave us the opportunity to exchange our ideas and our visions with Jungsook Kim, and her executive, also to invite them to experience Canadian hospitality.

One of the highlights of our events was an invitation from the French Ambassador to Canada, Madam Kareen Rispal, to a reception and a tour of the remarkable Art Deco French Embassy. Making it extra special was that, this was Madam Kareen Rispal's first major event since being named the first woman to hold this position. Her enthusiastic, heart-warming presentation, expounding on the importance of women's equality in today's society, resonated with us and was received with much appreciation.

In addition, recently, Julie Payette, a woman of great accomplishment, not only as an astronaut, but also an ambassador for science and technology, and a defender of the arts, has been appointed Canada's next Governor General.

We are seeing more women appointed to high positions, but there is much to be done to achieve true equality. Out of our discussions emerged our Common Program 2017-2019, *Eliminating poverty through life skills education and women's empowerment*. It encompasses the ICW triennial theme of, "Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment."



Sandra Cohen-Rose, President, NCWC



Board Members of NCW Canada

The three areas, the Common Program touches on are broad enough to engender much enthusiasm, thought and paths of action that can lead to change. It includes the promotion of Life Skills in the education system, which is a continued commitment of the NCWC, started in 1894, by NCWC member Adelaide Hoodless. At the time she began a multi-pronged campaign

to gain acceptance for domestic science in the schools. The NCWC is concerned, because in recent years Life Skills Education has disappeared from many education curriculums.

Life skills education for boys and girls through the school system could improve the wellbeing and quality of life for all, and led to greater gender equality, and women's empowerment, while helping to eliminate poverty.

Our first promotion of our Common Program, along with that of the NCWC, was in Toronto on August 22, at our



Members of the ICW Boards and the NCWC in front of the Embassy of France, Ottawa, Canada

booth at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), where we were well represented by NCWC Member, and CNE 2016 Award of Distinction recipient, Darla Campbell, P Eng. Promotion will continue on our Facebook, on which more contributions and comments by the Board and Convenors have been encouraged, and in our Newsletters, which we are increasing from two to four per year. In addition, anticipated are presentations and media coverage. We are also looking forward to evolve from our Common Program resolutions and new policies, which we will present to the government.

During our AGM, NCWC attendees were invited to Ottawa City Hall to view, the Quilt of Belonging. It represents the spirit and essence of Canada, and the power of the vision of one person, Canadian/Slovak artist Mrs. Esther Bryan, who working in cooperation with volunteers from across Canada created this remarkable artwork. Its 263 blocks portray the rich cultural legacies of Canada's First Peoples, and every nationality of Canada's immigrants. It recognizes Canada's diversity, celebrates our common humanity, and promotes harmony and compassion among people of all backgrounds. It represents the best in mankind, a fitting tribute for Canada to bring to the United Nations meeting in New York, where we look forward to seeing many of our sisters from the ICW.

As the newly elected President of the NCWC, I enthusiastically look forward to new challenges and solutions that will lead the Council forward to our 125th anniversary year, and meeting Council members from across Canada and around the world.

Report By Sandra Cohen-Rose, President, NCW Canada

National Council of Women of Austria



The Leading Team of the Museum of Technology and members of the VNGOCSW

Following the book launch of "Waere Ada ein Mann" (If Ada would be a Man) in January, the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women on the recommendation of the NCW Austria president and ICW Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna who also wrote a preface for the book had a very successful visit and guided tour at Vienna's Museum of Technology and the exhibition on women in technology, science and media, subject of the book. The director of the Museum, Dr. Gabriele Zuna-Kratky, welcomed the group, Mag.a

Barbara Hafok (Marketing and Press) and Dr.in Beatrix Hain took us through the exhibition. Ada Lovelace (1815-1852) was the first programmer. We could see her "computer" and learn her fascinating lifework. The names of the other women of the exhibition: the astronomer Caroline Lucretia Herschel (1750-1848), the piano-maker and friend of Ludwig van Beethoven Nanette Streicher (1769-1833), the globetrotter Ida Pfeiffer (1797-1858), the automobile driver and fighter for gender equality Claerenore Stinnes (1901-1990), the first women aeronaut Lady Grace Marguerite Hay Drummond-Hay (1895-1946), Nobel prize winner Marie Curie (1867-1934), the Austrian physicist Lise Meitner (1878-1968), the first Austrian women pilot Lilly Helene Steinschneider-Wenckheim (1891-1975), the singer, actress and first women holding a pilots license Bozena Laglerova (1888-1941) and architect Margarete Schuette-Lihotzky (1897-2000).

The "Verband der Akademikerinnen Oesterreichs" (Austrian Federation of University Women) was celebrating the 95th anniversary of its foundation and 95 years membership in NCW Austria with a splendid festivity in the frame of the UWE (University Women of Europe) meeting entitled "Changing Cultures" and held in Graz (Styria) from 24 - 26 August.

In September another NCW member organization "M.A.S. Morbus Alzheimer Syndrom" is going to celebrate the 20th anniversary with a great event in the Stadttheater Bad Ischl (Upper Austria).

As Austria has the presidency of the OSCE in 2017 we are attending all the related conferences and briefings. My report on two of the conferences was sent recently: 2nd Gender Review Conference 12th-13th June 2017 and the OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors "Nexus between Illicit Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism" 10th-11th July 2017



20 Years M.A.S.

After the (European) summer holidays we are now preparing for the upcoming events (I will report on them later on) and the daily business.

Conseil National des Femmes du Luxembourg (CNFL)

• UNITE-cnfl app

Considering that young people mainly gather information through electronic medias, the CNFL decided to create an Application on gender equality. The project was led by WIDE (Women in Digital Empowerment) which is a non-profit association. The application has been "thought" by young people participating in different workshops.

• Young women voices

The CNFL-network «Young women voices » launched its first action on a big marathon in Luxembourg-city. It was a big success and the network is already working on its next initiative which will focus on the high taxes put on personal care articles for women.



• Gender equality and religion

In order to be able to contribute to a structured and constructive debate, the CNFL launched the project "Gender equality and religion". The first event was a Public conference

Following the conference three workshops took place

CYCLE DE TROIS ATELIERS

Garantir les droits fondamentaux dans le respect de la liberté de conviction et de religion est un défi auquel est confrontée toute société. L'objet du CNFL amène celui-ci à analyser cette question sous l'aspect d'une des valeurs qui fondent notre société, celle de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes.



Pour ce faire, nous proposons un cycle de trois ateliers participatifs ouverts au grand public. Ces ateliers devront permettre une réflexion sur la question dans diverses sphères du vivre ensemble.

ATELIERS PARTICIPATIFS (début 18h30)

- ✶ **Atelier 1 :**
Égalité des sexes et liberté de religion dans l'espace public
Date: 25 avril 2017
- ✶ **Atelier 2 :**
Égalité des sexes et liberté de religion dans le monde du travail
Date: 22 mai 2017
- ✶ **Atelier 3 :**
Égalité des sexes et liberté de religion dans le système de garde et d'éducation des enfants
Date: 12 juin 2017

Modération :
Ines KURSCHAT, journaliste,
Annette WELSCH, journaliste

CONFÉRENCE : 27 mars 2017 à 16.00

CENTRE CULTUREL NEIMËNSTER, salle Edmond Dune

- ✶ Mot de bienvenue - DANIELE MARTIN, présidente du Conseil National des Femmes du Luxembourg
- ✶ Allocution - LYDIA MUTSCH, ministre de l'Égalité des chances
- ✶ Geschlechtergleichstellung und Religionsfreiheit - Ein Plädoyer dafür, beide zusammenzudenken
DR ANNE JENICHEN, Aston University
- ✶ Les femmes et les minorités sexuelles à l'avant-garde de la réforme de l'Islam
DR. & IM. LUDOVIC-MOHAMED ZAHED, Imam et Docteur en sciences humaines et sociales
- ✶ Les mobilités au prisme du genre: reconstruction des identités féminines à travers l'expérience migratoire
NASSERA GUEZZEN AZIZI, Sociologue, Doctorante/ PHD Candidate IRIS(EHESS-Paris)

Modération : Claude WOLF, journaliste

Inscriptions pour la conférence avant le 25 mars 2017 : anik_ruskin@cnfl.lu
Traduction Orale Directe ASTI DE/FR
Avec le soutien du Centre Culturel Neimënster



(source visuelle : Maëva Orger, Aude Bouchery et Marion Coste
Colloque « Interventions sociales et faits religieux » organisé par
Faiza Guilmame et Daniel Verbe, France 2013)



National Council of Women of Taiwan

From May to August, NCW of Taiwan, Republic of China (NCWT) President Linda Liu, former President Betty Chang and Vice-President May Lu participated in several public hearings and preparatory meetings with both government and other NGOs to discuss the issues to be included in the writing of the 3rd CEDAW report and alternative reports for Taiwan. NCWT also partnered with Taiwan Coalition Against Violence on a ten-session training program with the objective to deepen understanding and advocacy of local community organizations for the prevention of sexual violence. On August 30, 2017, NCWT held its autumn board meeting wherein board members discussed projects to promote prevention of violence against women and girls.



Korean National Council of Women

『We dream of a GE (Gender Equal) generation – to shine as the leaders of the next generation』



The Korean National Council of Women (KNCW), sponsored by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, has undertaken a noble project <We dream of a GE (Gender Equal) generation – to shine as the leaders of the next generation> . This project focuses on encouraging the nation's youths (generally those in their 20s and 30s) to participate in a broad range of highly relevant and useful

events. The type of event would include discussions, conferences, symposiums, and forums. They would deal with topics such as those focusing on the world of politics, economics, and society. Ultimately, this project aims to nurture leaders for the next generation—those with sufficient grounding and armed with a solid philosophy to allow them to lead with aplomb a gender equal society. We want them to be equipped in ways which will allow them to see the trees as well as the forests.

The GE Reporters, comprised of about 70 college students, began their activities on June 2nd, 2017 by officially launching the GE Reporters. They present results on issues and events they have monitored in virtually all aspects of society. They also share their experiences on social networking service (SNS) platforms. The GE reporters are also active participants in conferences held by the KNCW. However, the reporters do more than simply report, they propose useful legal and policy ideas that can lead to societal improvement based on their findings of the past month.

Among the GE Reporters, about 10 exceptional associates will be selected to put together and publish a book reporting on the broad scope of activities the GE Reporters have tackled. Also KNCW plans to hold a monthly conference for outstanding reporters for the purpose of following up on their activities and making pertinent suggestions.



Furthermore, mentor & mentee activities will be undertaken, where experts in various fields will be invited to take part. In November's GE general meeting : "GE! Talking with the Y(young)" the next board will be elected and outstanding reporter awards will be presented.

The KNCW will do its best to continue to meaningfully support the Korean youth. We recognize clearly the importance of helping younger citizens share a sense of being a part of the process that shapes society, just as we realize that an organization such as KNCW will atrophy without the input of well-informed youth. It is only with this kind of a unified, diverse effort that we can make real, and sustained, movement toward a gender equal society.

National of Council of Women of Indonesia(KOWANI)

There are 2 priority events from Kowani's activities during June – August 2017.



"Kowani Fair 2017" held from 1 – 4 of June 2017, Kowani has been active in developing potential in 12 different areas, including economics, cooperatives and SMEs by raising economic awareness, empowering women as entrepreneurs, promoting the development of SME through creative economic activities, and most importantly connecting women with the resources and

support they need. For the past 17 years, KOWANI has been holding the 'KOWANI FAIR' to promote creative industry and create pathways of communication between producers, seller and buyers to make continued transaction. In this way, KOWANI is a 'bridge' that connects women to education, resources, and partners. This year themed " "Strengthen women's economic independence based on local wisdom and IT". This event is expected to become a place for small and medium business entrepreneurs to prepare themselves in the world of business in order to survive and win the ASEAN Economic Community market.

Kowani's Organization workshop are being held on the 8th-9th August 2017, this event is used for the Boards to give reports to the Kowani's members about what has been done during half terms of their leadership, also provide views and ask for input on the programs to be implemented to fulfill the vision and mission of



Kowani. On this occasion Kowani also endorsed 5 new organization members, so now Kowani accommodate 91 organizations with 55 million members throughout Indonesia

Kowani President Giwo and her team



visited Seoul, from the 17th to the 20th of August, to discuss the details of 2018 ICW GA to be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from the 11th to the 17th of September, 2018, with ICW President Jungsook Kim. They had a visit to the Korean National Council of Women (KNCW) and the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), where they had a discussion on the issues on Asia-Pacific Women.

The 35th ICW General Assembly, Yogyakarta, Indonesia 2018

The 35th ICW General Assembly, Yogyakarta, Indonesia September 11 to 17, 2018

Yogyakarta is one of the most historical and cultural cities in Indonesia. From great cultural places to fun places to shop and exciting outdoors activities, it has something for everyone. The regular culture vulture will love the abundance of temples and cultural sites, or the ever-hungry traveler will feast like a king on Yogya's delicious dishes, and the shopping queen will definitely find retail delights that will soothe her need for retail therapy.



Prambanan Temple

The ancient temple that was dedicated to the Trimurti gods (Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva) is a beautiful Hindu-Buddhist architecture enshrouded in mystery, and is touted as one of most beautiful Hindu temples in the world.



Ramayana Ballet

The timeless tale of Ramayana comes to life in a marvelous depiction of the legend through performing arts.

Upcoming Events



UN CSW62 (2018)



The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018. under the theme of Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls; the review theme will be the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

During the CSW62, many of international and regional events are now being planned by ICW, Regional Councils and Member Councils including the Regional Council of America(RCA)'s conference and business meeting. We, ICW, will sponsor or co-sponsor some side and parallel events. Further details of the events will be announced at a later date. We strongly welcome all the ICW member councils, sisters and friends to attend the CSW62 and ICW events.



2017 ECICW Autumn General Assembly

- Date: October 6-8, 2017
- Venue: Pavia, Italy



2017 ICW-CIF Autumn Board Meeting

- Date: November 7-9, 2017
- Venue: Seoul, Korea

Historical Picture of ICW



Lady Ishbel Maria Hamilton-Gordon of Aberdeen in her early 30s (1857~1939)

Lady Aberdeen devoted her life to promoting social causes
and served for years(1893~1899, 1904~1920, 1922~1936) as the President
of the International Council of Women.

<http://www.icw-cif.com/>

***Join the International Council of Women,
and join us in changing women's lives for the better
everywhere in the world***



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