



Circular 4/2007
March 2007

To: IFUW National Federations and Associations (NFAs)
From: IFUW Headquarters

Main Outcomes and Decisions from the IFUW Board and Committee Meetings Geneva, 8-13 February 2007

29th IFUW Conference – Manchester

The 29th Conference was a primary focus for these meetings. The Board of Officers and the Local Arrangements Committee of the British Federation have planned an exciting programme.

- Each national federation and association is invited to nominate two members to attend a one-day **leadership training workshop** on 9 August from 9h00 to 16h45 – see Circular 5/2007 - <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/circular-2007-05.doc>.
- All members under 40 are invited to take part in a **young leader training programme**, which will begin on the evening of 8 August and run throughout the conference – see Circular 6/2007 - <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/circular-2007-06.doc>.
- All members standing for an elected or appointed IFUW office or thinking about standing in the near future are encouraged to attend a special orientation session **“Everything You Wanted to Know About Being an IFUW Leader”** on 9 August from 17h30 to 19h00
- On the evening of 9th August, a long-term planning initiative **“IFUW, A Vision for the Future”** will be launched, offering members an opportunity to give input on how IFUW as an international network will best be able to meet needs of women graduates over the next thirty years.
- Mary Robinson, previously the first woman President of the Republic of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will give the inaugural address on 10 August on “Women, Human Rights and Human Security: The Involvement of Women and Their Use of Power”.
- Parallel sessions will offer alternatives to those who do not wish to participate in business sessions, for example a session on Sustainable Cities, Communications for Advocacy, and Academic Careers.
- Newly admitted groups represented for the first time at Conference will each receive one paid enrolment fee.
- The Board confirmed that there would be a **Briefing for New Affiliates** on the evening of Thursday 8th August to welcome them and to offer an opportunity to answer questions about how IFUW works.
- No sales will be permitted at Conference by individual members or NFAs.

Finance

- The 2006 accounts show significant savings over the amounts budgeted by Council. This is the combined result of efforts at Headquarters to contain expenses and better than expected investment returns.
- The Board and Finance Committee will propose a balanced budget for 2007-2010 to the Conference and Council in Manchester.
- In response to comments received from national federations and associations during the dues consultation (see Circular 12/2006 - <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/circular-2006-12.doc>), the Board and Finance Committee modified the formula to be presented to the Conference in Manchester. The revised formula will be based on seven bands ranging from 18 Swiss francs to 3 Swiss francs. This reflects more realistically the payments currently made by the smaller associations in countries with a low per capita income. It will also make it easier for larger associations gaining membership to move between bands.
- If Conference approves the proposed amendment changing the way IFUW's dues are determined, the first dues calculated according to the new dues scheme will be payable on 1 January 2009.
- IFUW investment policy will gradually be revised to reflect more international diversification of investments thus becoming less dependent on the development of the US equity market.

Strategic Planning

- To improve Board and Committee effectiveness, an additional extended board meeting will take place in November 2007. The Board of Officers, together with the Conveners of the Status of Women, Finance, Membership, Resolutions and Projects Committee and the Coordinators of the IFUW's teams of representatives to inter-governmental agencies, will meet together in November to develop an action plan for the triennium.

Nominations for the 2007-2010 IFUW Board and Committees

- As there are not enough candidates, there will be a second call for Convener of the Committee for the Award of International Fellowships and Member of the Resolutions Committee early in March, at the same time as the call for Special Committees.
- Candidates' biographical data will not be printed in the conference documentation. National federations and associations are encouraged to consult this material on the IFUW website at <http://www.ifuw.org/nominations/nominations.htm>.

Constitutional Amendments

- National federations and associations who wish to suggest changes to the amendments that have been proposed to the 29th IFUW Conference (see Circular 3/2007 – <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/circular-2007-03.doc>) may do so now in writing, using the special form available at <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2007/constitution/amendments.doc>

IFUW Internal Policies

- The Board reviewed and confirmed many of the internal policies adopted in recent years by previous Boards. The resulting compilation will soon be available on the IFUW website for easy reference by IFUW and national leaders.

Programme for Action

- IFUW will hold two new online discussions. The first discussion will begin at the end of March 2007 on universal access to education, to be moderated by Clara Ikekeonwu. The second will start in October 2007 on Higher Education, Science and Research

International Advocacy

- IFUW will seek consultative status with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.
- The following changes in IFUW's team of representatives were confirmed: Marise Paschoud and Eva Slettenhaar Hansen have resigned from IFUW's team of representatives in Geneva. Arielle Wagenknecht, a member of the Swiss Association, will join the Geneva team as an ad hoc representative to work with the WHO. Murielle Joye-Patry has joined IFUW's team of representatives to UNESCO in Paris and now represents IFUW on UNESCO's Follow-up Committee to the World Conference on Higher Education (IFUW is the only women's organization represented on the twenty-member committee).

Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) and Projects

- The IFUW Board and Finance Committee have determined that the BRPID programme is no longer sustainable in its present form. Donations are not keeping up with the demand for assistance from developing countries and countries in transition.
- Deficits in the programme for 2006 and 2007 will be covered from the IFUW Special Fund. For 2008 a maximum cap will be introduced, limiting the size of the BRPID grant which a national federation or association can receive.
- If the proposed dues formula is adopted by the Conference in Manchester, the connection between the BRPID programme and IFUW dues will be removed. BRPID would continue, providing enough funds can be obtained; however grants would be paid directly to the recipients and have no relationship with IFUW dues; only NFAs in good standing with their dues would be able to apply for grants once the new system is in place.
- The Board authorized Sonya Höstman, a member of the Finance Committee, to explore a possible partnership with Oikocredit (a microfinance fund in The Netherlands) to see whether funding might be made available to national federations and associations with vocational training programmes.

Fellowships

- The Board of Officers confirmed that the fellowships competitions should continue to be offered once a triennium, with the next competition scheduled for 2008-2009. National federations and associations will receive the announcement within the next few days.

Membership Development

- The Membership Committee will recommend to the 88th Council in Manchester that the Rwanda Association of University Women be admitted as a national association with voting rights.
- After final evaluation of the pilot programme, the Board is proposing an amendment to Conference in Manchester that would continue to permit women living in countries where an IFUW national federation or association existed to join as individual members.

30th IFUW Conference

- Formal bids to host the 30th IFUW Conference in 2010 were received from the French Association, Mexican Federation and Turkish Association. A final decision will be announced in Manchester following site visits.