



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 28TH IFUW CONFERENCE PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 4-10 AUGUST 2004

1) Women in Decision-Making Positions in World Financial Institutions

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to encourage financial institutions, national and international, to include women in economic decision-making positions;
2. NFAs urge their respective governments to encourage governments at all levels to include women in economic decision-making positions; and,
3. IFUW utilize its standing committees, its consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations, and its website and listservs to implement this resolution.

Plan of Action

1. *Members of NFAs urge their respective governments to implement practices that would identify and appoint women to decision-making positions in financial bodies.*
2. *Members of NFAs urge their respective financial institutions to seek and employ women to decision-making positions.*
3. *IFUW leaders utilize committees and information technology to suggest ways for NFAs to implement this resolution.*
4. *IFUW representatives to the United Nations present this resolution at appropriate meetings with relevant commissions.*
5. *IFUW seek consultative status with ECOSOC.*

2) Women and Ageing

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to urge National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to:

1. promote increased awareness among their members and governments of the fact that the majority of older people are female and, therefore, the concerns of older women need attention;
2. promote research on all relevant aspects regarding the situation of older women in order to confront the myth of "older and ageing women" being "fragile, helpless and dependent";
3. urge their governments to compile official statistics disaggregated according to age and gender;
4. promote increased awareness among their members and governments of the importance of gender sensitive measures for elderly people covering issues of finance, housing, health, supportive services and mental stimulation;
5. ensure that the mainstreaming approach explicitly includes the perspective of older women as a specific target group in government reports and other government publications, in order to be able to outline policy and legal measures aimed at improving their situation; and,
6. promote involvement of older women in local, regional, and national social policy development and initiatives.

Plan of Action

NFAs to urge their respective governments to implement the recommendations made by the UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid 2002.

3) New Choices During the Life Cycle

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to encourage National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to:

1. recognize the evolving changes in life choices and the specific needs of women in their various phases of life;
2. promote adequate adaptations in social institutions to address these needs, assisting citizens to combine more and different activities during any particular phase of life; and,
3. acknowledge that lifelong learning, advanced technology, women in the labour market and an ageing society all contribute to these changes.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs to investigate the flexibility and variety of services offered in their countries to assist women at various stages of their life and over the longer period in an ageing society. Areas to be especially researched are school systems (adapted to life-long learning); housing (adapted to life-long living not merely family life); healthcare and other “shift” style working days; maternal and paternal leave; and pension fund restrictions and formalities.*
2. *NFAs also to investigate what services are available to ensure mental stimulation.*

4) Cultural Diversity and Education

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

to support the UNESCO Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity and the Declaration on a Culture of Peace by asking National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to:

1. promote educational programmes for women who are migrants, refugees, or from indigenous and minority groups;
2. advocate that governments adopt educational policies for primary and secondary students which will give them the opportunity to learn, appreciate and celebrate the richness of Cultural Diversity;
3. ensure that school curricula include programmes that are designed to respect differences, promote understanding and counter racism within school communities and multi-cultural societies; and,
4. publicize good practices on the IFUW and NFA websites.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should investigate whether education curricula include programmes that promote cultural diversity and whether these programmes are being implemented.*
2. *NFAs should provide, at branch and state level, social and cultural programmes, inclusive of migrant and refugee women, and ethnic minorities, where all women and children may celebrate their cultural diversity.*
3. *NFAs should become familiar with the text of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Declaration on a Culture of Peace.*

5) Age Discrimination in Educational Funding

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to:

1. reaffirm Resolution 1995/N°6 (part 2) urging National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to encourage their respective authorities to remove references to age limits as a criterion for eligibility for scholarships, fellowships, grants and employment; and,
2. request the IFUW Board, in its representations to relevant international bodies, to encourage them to remove age limits as a criterion for eligibility for scholarships, fellowships, grants and bursaries provided by international funders.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should investigate the eligibility criteria for scholarships, fellowships, bursaries and student employment at institutions in their countries. If age limitations are present, the NFAs should urge the appropriate authority to remove them.*
2. *The IFUW Board should encourage relevant international bodies to remove age limits in the award criteria for scholarships, fellowships, grants and bursaries provided by international funders.*

6) Commercial Exploitation of Children

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that National Federations and Associations (NFAs) ensure that their respective governments have not only signed but have also ratified the:

1. UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002);
2. UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000);
3. UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000); and,
4. International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999).

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should identify their Government's position in relation to the UN Optional Protocol and to the ILO Convention and, where it is found that they have not been signed and/or ratified, lobby the government to meet these requirements.*
2. *NFAs should ensure that resources are available to implement the measures and that there is effective use of the law to prevent the exploitation of children.*
3. *NFAs should monitor the extent to which there is cooperation between the police, education organizations and information for parents regarding the safe use of the Internet by children.*
4. *NFAs familiarize themselves with these documents. The UN Optional Protocol was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution A/RES/54/263 of 25 May 2000, entered into force on 18 January 2002. UNHCHR and UNICEF websites have the full text. The ILO Convention 182 can be found on the ILO website: www.ilo.org.*

7) Religion, Culture, Gender Equality and Women's Rights

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to:

1. urge IFUW and National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to promote the application of human rights standards within cultural and religious institutions and so achieve gender equality and prevent women's rights being made subordinate whilst being respectful towards each person's religious beliefs; and,
2. encourage NFAs to promote the standards for dialogue on religion, culture, gender equality and women's rights as set out in documents such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing +5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document together with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Plan of Action

1. *IFUW representatives on UN committees should ask for the application of human rights standards within cultural and religious institutions.*
2. *NFAs should promote the application of human rights standards within cultural and religious institutions in their country.*
3. *NFAs should promote standards for dialogue on religion, culture, in relation to gender equality and women's rights in their country.*

8) Small Arms and Light Weapons Control

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that National Federations and Associations (NFAs) strongly urge their respective governments to:

1. implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001);
2. participate actively in the 2005 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, become signatories to any Codes of Conduct or conventions which are agreed therein and enforce them in their own territories;
3. consult other governments in their region on the most urgent issues and the most effective means of control when preparing for the 2005 Conference;
4. work for the strengthening of the 2001 Programme of Action at that Conference with respect to:
 - a) the establishment of a Code of Conduct on arms exports, which regulates the sale of weapons, especially to countries which violate human rights or international law;
 - b) the establishment of a UN Convention on the international regulation of brokering and shipping agents; and,
 - c) strengthening of security measures at state owned and other armouries;
5. further support measures to counter underlying cultures of violence and the impacts of armed conflict; and,
6. actively support measures which empower civil society organizations to promote peaceful resolution of conflict, including peace education and the role of weapons, especially amongst young people.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should take urgent action to make their concerns known to their respective governments regarding the need to strengthen the UN Programme of Action in 2005.*
2. *NFAs should make themselves aware of particular problems relating to their region and highlight these when lobbying their governments.*
3. *NFAs should develop their own plans to address issues of non-violent resolution of conflict and of education for peace in accordance with Resolutions 12 and 13 of the 27th IFUW Conference, Ottawa, 2001.*

9) Women – Essential to Peace

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to support the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and Resolution 1366 on the Role of the Security Council in the Prevention of Armed Conflicts, Paragraph 17 (2001);
2. NFAs advocate with their respective governments to provide opportunities in the conflict resolutions processes to incorporate women's voices and representation with a view to:
 - a) preventing conflict;
 - b) facilitating an early end to conflict;
 - c) assisting humanitarian operations and reconstruction processes;
 - d) protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, and
 - e) working towards ensuring at least 50 percent of participants in such processes are women; and,
3. IFUW urge the UN Secretary General to provide regular reports on the progress made towards full implementation of Resolution 1325 and Resolution 1366, paragraph 17 that members urge their respective governments to ensure that they follow the implementation strategies recommended by the Secretary General.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should urge all members to obtain a copy of “Women, Peace and Security” from the United Nations or download it from www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/wg This study has 79 recommendations.*
2. *NFAs should distribute this study to their respective governments to ensure that their respective governments take notice of the resolution.*
3. *NFAs should encourage their respective governments to review policies and training for those involved in all aspects of conflict including prevention and post-conflict processes on the specific effects of war and violence on women and disaggregate data so that policy decisions can be analysed for their effect on women.*
4. *IFUW should request that the UN Secretary General report on the progress made toward full implementation of Resolution 1325.*

10) Protection of Water

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to:

1. protect water resources and specifically declare that water, being a non-renewable natural resource of paramount importance, be protected at all levels of government and its use and price be regulated;
2. oppose all efforts to make privatization of water a condition for receiving financial aid,
3. adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydro-geological reality; and,
4. promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater at individual, local, national and international levels.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should urge national delegates to the World Trade Organization to make firm and binding the exemption of water resources in bulk form from any consideration as a commodity.*
2. *NFAs should be alert to and oppose efforts by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to require countries to privatize their water prior to receiving financial assistance.*
3. *NFAs should educate themselves on global water issues in order to approach their governments to carry forward the resolution. UNESCO has several resources in print.*

11) Responsibility to Protect

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to:

1. give high priority to the promotion of international acceptance of the principles contained in the 2001 Report to the United Nations by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty entitled "The Responsibility to Protect" outlining the responsibility of states to protect their citizens, namely:
 - a) the responsibility to prevent: to address both root causes and direct causes of conflict;
 - b) the responsibility to react: to respond to compelling human need with appropriate measures;
 - c) the responsibility to rebuild: to provide assistance with recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation; and,
2. advocate for an international protocol for humanitarian intervention under the aegis of the United Nations.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should take action to support the principles of the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty known as the **Responsibility to Protect**.*
2. *NFAs should urge their respective governments to adopt the recommendations of the Report of the United Nations High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change as these relate to the emerging norm of responsibility to protect civilians from large-scale violence.*

12) Increased Collective Violence Against Women

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to:

1. condemn and denounce gender-based killings and violence;
2. demand that responsibility for such killings and violence against women and children be recognized, admitted and punished by the relevant authorities;
3. request the IFUW Board of Officers to urge the UN Commission on Human Rights, in light of increased collective violence against women, to consider the elimination of femicide a fundamental human rights issue;
4. request National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to investigate the response of their own authorities to this emerging issue; and,
5. request NFAs to urge their own governments to give priority to this issue at the United Nations.

Plan of Action

1. *NFAs should urge their governments to give priority to this issue at the United Nations and to consider the elimination of femicide a fundamental human rights issue.*
2. *NFAs should investigate the response of their own governments and their attitude to the emerging issue of gender based killings.*
3. *NFAs should come together in regions and border countries where this type of violence exists or has increased to insist that authorities meet their full responsibility in prevention and punishment.*
4. *NFAs should seek to aid in the ways they deem feasible, victims of gender violence.*

INTERNAL RESOLUTIONS

13) Young Members in IFUW

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. the Board of Officers shall appoint an existing Board Member to represent the Young Members to provide structured and continued support for this indispensable group of members;
2. a permanent structure be established, such as a New Generation (NG) project group, which will be responsible for the newsletter, e-mail list, advocacy for Young Members and the promotion of special projects;
3. the Board of Officers promote opportunities and training for young members to gain managerial knowledge and experience of IFUW;
4. the IFUW Headquarters continue to source and share relevant information for the Young Members e-mail list;
5. the Board of Officers continue to arrange a programme of events for Young Members during the IFUW Conferences; and,
6. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) be urged to take similar, appropriate steps within their own countries for their Young Members, e.g. promote opportunities and training for Young Members to source and share relevant information and arrange a programme of events for Young Members.

Plan of Action

1. *The Board of Officers appoint one of the existing Board Members to represent the Young Members.*
2. *At the end of the 28th Conference, a project group called New Generation will be established consisting of young dedicated members. They will work together with the appointed board Member during the triennium and conferences.*
3. *The NG project group will develop a plan of action in consultation with the Board Member for submission to the Board for final approval before July 2005.*
4. *NFAs are encouraged also to appoint a Young Member representative within their decision making body.*

14) NFA Think Tanks on Emerging Issues

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to:

encourage all National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to create think tanks on emerging issues comprised of NFA members and outside specialists appointed on an *ad hoc* basis, as appropriate, that will:

1. observe significant changes in politics, economy and society as well as in ethical values, considering that these changes affect the status and the rights of women, especially university women graduates;
2. make recommendations to feed into the policy and programmes of the NFA so that its projects may better anticipate the needs of university/graduate women and provide answers suitable for its country or region; and
3. network with other NFA think tanks to facilitate the exchange of observations, conclusions, solutions and expertise in order to enable all IFUW members to move forward together towards a future affirming IFUW principles.

Plan of Action

1. *Each NFA should constitute a think tank on emerging issues on an ad hoc basis; to ensure that this is not yet another bureaucratic entity but an interdisciplinary reflective group, it should involve both NFA members and outside experts.*
2. *The core membership should include a variety of specialists from several fields.*
3. *This group should alert its NFA about emerging problems that require immediate or long-term action.*

(continued)

4. *These groups should establish regional networks with a mandate for wide ranging observation of issues that will bring about major changes in the region, evaluating the impact of such changes on the region, and engaging in grass roots initiatives in order to bring the results to IFUW at the international level.*

15) Place and Date of the 30th IFUW Conference

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

to delegate to the Board of Officers the duty of deciding the time and place of the 30th Conference.

16) Pilot Programme for International Membership

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. the Board of Officers continue to test, on a pilot basis, the category of individual international membership offered through the Internet; and
2. a review of the benefits and costs of both the pilot programme and the existing category of independent membership be undertaken, with a full report of the results and final recommendation to be made to Council before the next Conference.

17) Response to the IFUW Budget Crisis and Financial Implications

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. a task force be set up by the IFUW Board of Officers before 1 October 2004, with terms of reference to be drawn up by the Board and the Finance Committee;
2. the task force terms of reference include the review by November 2004 of:
 - a) IFUW structure, including membership;
 - b) office functions;
 - c) priorities; and
 - d) finances
3. the task force meet during November 2004;
4. the task force recommendations go to the Board by the end of November 2004;
5. the Written Vote Council for confirmation of action proceed in December 2003 and be completed by the end of February 2005, subject to the following, that no such vote shall be put to Council until it has been demonstrated that full consultation has occurred within the membership of National Federations and Associations (NFAs) and special IFUW groups such as the Young Members Network; and
6. the Board implement any such decisions from March 2005.

18) Review of IFUW Categories of Membership

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. IFUW review its categories of membership, taking into consideration new categories that might provide more flexibility in admitting member associations; and,
2. a report with recommendations and proposed amendments to the IFUW Constitution and By-laws be made to the 29th Conference.

19) Dues

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves:

that there be a 6 Swiss franc increase in the per capita rate and that the new rate of 18 Swiss francs shall be applicable to capitation fees calculated on the basis of the number of individual members during the calendar year 2004 and payable in 2005.