



TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE HEGG HOFFET FUND

Members: Catherine Bandle (*Switzerland*), Convener; Marian Ennis (*Canada*); Ingeborg Lötterle (*Germany*); and Birten Gökyay, IFUW Vice-President

The Hegg Hoffet Fund continues to provide assistance to university women refugees as a form of solidarity among women graduates all over the world.

Ingeborg Lötterle continued to act as the Treasurer, with assistance from a member of the Swiss Association. Our bank, The Swiss Bank Corporation in Basel, also remained the same.

Grants awarded

The Fund continued the scholarship support of a young Bosnian Girl, who is studying psychology and pedagogy at the University of Tuzla.

The Hegg-Hoffet Fund supported an Afghani doctor in Canada, who was taking courses to obtain a diploma in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. It was not possible for her to practise in Canada without this additional training. Despite a call from IFUW, no requests for help came from the countries affected by the tsunami in 2005.

The Fund also helped an Ethiopian woman in Australia to finance computer training, as she was unable to work in her field without up-to-date computer skills. We asked the Queensland Association of University Women to assist her. It was, for both, a very fruitful collaboration and a good example of networking among the IFUW members. The same year, the Fund paid for a preparatory course for a Jewish Russian doctor in Germany, who needed to pass a national exam to be able to practice as a doctor in that country. The Fund also gave a grant to a Nigerian woman who was studying at the University of Basel in Switzerland.

In 2007, the Fund provided a special collective grant to enable a group of ten refugees in Switzerland to obtain language training in German. Among them were women from Chechnya, Comoros, Iran, and Vietnam.

Donations

Several national affiliates continued to provide generous support to the Hegg Hoffet Fund, for which we are very grateful. We were also able to raise funds at our shops at the UWE Conference in Cork, the UWE Conference in The Hague, a meeting of the German Federation (DAB) in Dresden, and a meeting of the Swiss Association in Bad Ramsach.

Administration

The Committee has been discussing the possibility of broadening its guidelines in order to assist a greater number of women. Application forms for the Hegg Hoffet grants are now available on the IFUW website. It would be helpful if IFUW affiliates could help spread the word about the programme and encourage any qualified refugee women in their countries to apply.

Catherine Bandle, Convener
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