



TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CONVENER OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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It was at the 26th IFUW Conference in Graz, Austria in 1998 that the Special Committee for Resolutions became a standing committee charged with working throughout the triennium. The first report on this new work was made to the Conference in Perth in 2004. Over the last three years, the Resolutions Committee has worked closely with the Status of Women Committee (SWC), the Special Committee for Project Development and IFUW's UN Representatives to Inter-governmental Organizations to encourage and assist IFUW and national federations and associations (NFAs) to implement policy resolutions related to the triennial theme.

Implementation of Resolutions Adopted in Perth

A few of the policy resolutions adopted in Perth were missing plans of actions. These were requested from the proposing NFAs and by the end of 2005 all were in place on the IFUW website.

The Resolutions Committee, working with Headquarters and the Board of Officers, alerted NFAs to a number of situations, suggested action to be taken and shared information on action reported by NFAs. One example relates to **Perth Resolution 12 on Increased Collective Violence Against Women**. The Mexican Federation used this resolution in their work on disappeared women in their country. A report in September 2005 from Ms Ruth-Gaby Vermot Mangold, who was sent twice by the European Union to investigate the problem, described an incredible situation. The word 'femicide', a neologism, was actually used by the Mexican procurer to describe the mass murders of women in the country, which along with assassinations, kidnapping, sexual abuses, drug deals, trafficking and other violations, were being carried out on a large scale with impunity. IFUW's Representatives to the United Nations were able to report on the Mexican Federation's actions in their meeting at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

Several NFAs, among them the Australian and Canadian Federations, reported national action related to **Perth Resolution 9 on Women – Essential to Peace**, which promotes implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000). The University Women of Delhi offered to translate the resolution into Hindi so that women in their country might better use it. The Resolutions Convener was also able to help establish networking links between the Indian Federation and Headband Women's Action Group, (AWAG) to enable joint action.

There was also follow-up to the **1995 IFUW Resolution on Women's Participation in the Peacemaking Process**, which called for women's involvement at all levels. The Committee encouraged national affiliates to support the letter sent by Women Ministers for Foreign Affairs from various countries to the UN Secretary General on 19 September 2005 calling for the participation and involvement of women in the Peace Building Commission

The Canadian Federation reported successful action related to **Perth Resolution 7 on Religion, Culture, Gender Equity and Women's Rights**, with the adoption of a new national law ensuring that family legal arbitrations use Canadian law only, eliminating faith-based arbitration.

The Resolutions Committee's queries regarding an internal resolution adopted in Perth encouraging NFAs to create think tanks to identify future trends did not bear fruit. We can report, however, that at least two NFAs - the German Federation and Swiss Federation - do have working think tanks in place.

There was increase in the number of NFA reports received by the Committee, which were then shared through the IFUW network to encourage other NFAs to take action. One example is the Australian Federation's letter to their Foreign Minister regarding a recent explosion in Baghdad that killed a number of women. This inspired further action by other NFAs.

The Committee believes action on resolutions is being taken in many more NFAs, but reports have to be cajoled from them. Having NFAs share information helps to promote more action on IFUW policy priorities.

Resolutions for the 29th Conference in Manchester

Eleven resolutions have been proposed by NFAs for Manchester. The Committee consulted with the proposing NFAs on both structure and wording. This work has been easy due to active support and cooperation that the committee members, the Board Liaison and NFA contact persons have given to each other, making the work a very pleasant experience.

NFAs for the first time have been invited to submit friendly amendments prior to the Conference, which is hopefully a step toward greater involvement of NFAs and IFUW members in adopting resolutions. We are learning how to integrate information and communication technology in our work, within the limitations to access that still exist in some parts of the world.

All of the resolutions to be presented in Manchester include plans for action. Our Committee will conduct a special workshop in Manchester on **IFUW Policy Resolutions: From Words to Action**, looking at plans for action and success and impediments in implementing policy. We hope to have good interaction with NFAs, IFUW's UN Representatives, the SWC and the Projects Committee – all of those who need to work closely with the Resolutions Committee throughout the Triennium.

Looking to the Future

Over the last three years, we have revised our terms of reference and looked for ways of work that would be more effective and efficient. To strengthen the link between policy and programme, the Board of Officers, the SWC and the Resolutions Committee have recommended that a constitutional amendment be passed in Manchester that would make the Resolutions Committee Convener an *ex officio* member of the SWC. We would recommend the following:

- It is necessary to have members of the Committee who understand Spanish as well as French, because we need to encourage our Spanish-speaking members to be more active.
- We need to make better use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for efficient reporting on implementation of resolutions during the next triennium.
- Reporting on work could be enhanced through questionnaires, as suggested by previous committees, and through greater use of forums and better coordination with the SWC.
- Having a committee protocol for electronic decision-making would improve our work.
- We also need to increase our interaction with Special Committee on Project Development and with IFUW representatives to various UN agencies.

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