

IFUW members, using their knowledge and understanding, can be effective Agents for Change

IFUW's Programme for Action provides a common theme for the work of its 77 national federations and associations and more than 150,000 members around the world.

By encouraging and supporting study, research, discussion and projects, IFUW members are working to enhance the **empowerment** and **security** of all members of society.

This action takes many forms:

- Preparing submissions/making recommendations to governments
- Organizing workshops and seminars
- Developing community action programmes
- Cooperating with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including members of Project Five-O

The IFUW Status of Women Committee has prepared this leaflet to assist national affiliates and local branches in developing programmes related to the theme which will meet the special needs of their respective communities. The three inner panels present:

- an outline of key issues in Education, The Information Society and Human Security & Peace;
- topics for possible programmes or projects that can be undertaken at the local, national and regional level.

Women: Agents for Change

For further information:

The IFUW Status of Women Committee has developed a special section of the IFUW website to support national and local work related to **Women: Agents for Change**.

www.ifuw.org/programme

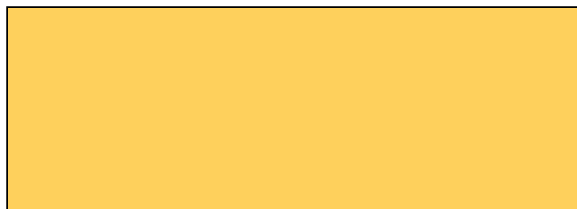
The site looks in more depth at specific issues related to Education, The Information Society and Human Security & Peace. It includes ideas for action, examples of IFUW projects and links to related Internet and printed resource material.

It also includes links to special leadership development tools on such topics as:

- Planning for Change
- Project Development
- Conflict Resolution
- Preparing Policy Briefs

The main IFUW website - www.ifuw.org is another good resource, offering a general overview of the work of the International Federation and information on how to become part of IFUW's international network of women graduates working for change.

Contact addresses of national affiliates are on the IFUW website or in the space provided below.



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IFUW Programme for Action ***Women: Agents for Change***



IFUW supports a process of globalization that is based on universally shared values and respect for both human rights and individual dignity. It should be fair, inclusive, democratically governed and provide opportunities and benefits for all peoples.

For this to be achieved, women must play an active role in working for change.

IFUW's Programme for Action, ***Women: Agents for Change*** focuses on three key areas where their action is needed:

- ***Education***
- ***The Information Society***
- ***Human Security and Peace***

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WOMEN: AGENTS FOR CHANGE

EDUCATION

IFUW is committed to education as the key to the successful development of women, men and children in a modern society.

Quality education should establish policies that:

- Create secure learning environments that respect human rights and cultural diversity
- Provide educational opportunities for all
- Advance all forms of literacy: numeracy, media, legal, economic and information technology
- Ensure gender equity at all levels of education
- Promote the benefits and inclusion of all in the information society

Ideas for action

Developing programmes and projects that address:

- Internet based e-learning and distance learning
- Education for sustainable development
- Education in science and technology
- Health and family life education; social, mental and emotional well-being; the prevention of disease
- Education of boys as a tool to achieve gender equity
- Education for employment, economic independence, leadership and decision-making
- Legal and economic literacy
- Linguistic, artistic, historical and cultural diversity
- Mediation and post-conflict education

INFORMATION SOCIETY

IFUW believes that the Information Society should be inclusive, promoting the use of information communication technologies (ICTs) to provide equitable access to information and to link diverse communities.

These technologies should be tools for the empowerment and development of women and keys to economic and social development to alleviate poverty, hunger, poor health and low literacy.

IFUW supports the principles adopted by the December 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), among them:

- Affirmation of opportunities for women as ICT users and key actors in the information society
- Commitment to create a people-centred, inclusive and sustainable development-oriented information society
- Provision of information in diverse languages
- Freedom of information

Ideas for action

Developing programmes and projects that address:

- Monitoring of government actions to ensure equitable and inclusive access to ICTs
- Public protection from cybernet crime and obscene, pornographic material
- Training in ICT skills for girls and boys in school and higher education
- Access in urban and rural communities for older people; people with disabilities; refugees and immigrants; the unemployed and underprivileged
- Dissemination of the world's medical knowledge to strengthen public health

HUMAN SECURITY & PEACE

IFUW, as an active partner in the emerging global civil society, recognizes and values diversity of culture, religion, ethnicity, language and gender. It creates understanding and friendship among individuals within nations.

A **secure society** recognizes and meets human rights, fundamental freedoms and basic needs. It ensures that people are free from discrimination and violence. It fosters health and sustainable economic and environmental development.

A **peaceful society** actively fosters inclusion and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It reinforces the rights of justice and equity. It promotes the peaceful resolution of conflict. It strengthens solidarity among people and nations.

Ideas for action

Developing programmes and projects that address:

- Empowerment of women and girls for participation, leadership and decision-making roles in economic, political and social arenas
- Human rights and women's rights
- Gender balance in peace-keeping missions, negotiations and reconstruction
- Culture of tolerance in families and communities
- Prevention of all forms of violence, including domestic violence
- Human security for vulnerable populations
- Network building for peace and security