



CSW ADDRESSES FEMINIZATION OF AIDS AND REAFFIRMS NEED FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The 53rd Commission on the Status of Women adopted a draft resolution calling on Governments to better protect women and girls from HIV infection by creating an enabling environment for women's empowerment, strengthening their economic independence and inheritance and property rights, promoting their human rights and strengthening health care and services, including for sexual and reproductive health. The resolution urged Governments and all relevant stakeholders to help women better access HIV prevention and treatment, and care for others infected with the disease. The Commission called for administrative and other measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls as an integral part of national HIV/AIDS response and for Governments to institute and enforce laws to protect them from early and forced marriage and marital rape. The Commission also highlighted the need to improve -- and promote -- the accessibility of quality public health-care services, and design programmes that encourage men's responsibility for home-based care.

The Commission reaffirmed the importance of women's empowerment by calling on Governments, along with the United Nations, civil society and the private sector, among others, to intensify efforts to fully implement the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, to mainstream gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes, and to incorporate a gender-responsive budgeting process across all policy areas.

- UN Dept. of Public Information. For the complete press release, the full draft conclusions and reports from IFUW's delegation, see <http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/csw.shtml>.

ARMENIAN ASSOCIATION PREPARES ALTERNATIVE CEDAW REPORT

The Armenian Association of Women with University Education (AAUWE) co-authored an [alternative report](#) to the 43rd Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) assessing the discrimination Armenian women and girls face in areas such as education, employment and health. For example, the report highlighted the continuing underrepresentation of women in political decisionmaking. There is only one woman minister; only two women deputy ministers out of 65; only one woman regional governor out of 10, only one deputy governor out of 17 and women hold only 8.3% of the top-level positions in local and regional administrations. The report provides a critical analysis and recommendations for action needed to remedy the current problems.

For the complete report, see -

http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/docs/2009_AM_CEDAW_AlternativeRpt.pdf.

In each of the CEDAW sessions, official reports from six to twelve countries are reviewed. Alternative reports from civil society partners or coalitions are welcome and are used in evaluating progress Governments are making toward meeting their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. IFUW's Working Group on the Girl Child and the Working Group on Education Advocacy are currently preparing material that will assist other national federations and associations (NFAs) that would like to take part in this process. At 44th Session in New York in June 2009, Argentina, Denmark, Japan, Spain and Switzerland are the countries reporting where IFUW has

NFAs. In Geneva in January 2010, Egypt, the Netherlands and Panama will report. IFUW is pleased to accredit one or two representatives to these meetings from NFAs whose countries are reporting, but no funding is available to help with travel or living expenses.

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DAME DAPHNE PURVES REMEMBERS IFUW

IFUW has received a small legacy from Dame Daphne Purves (1908-2008), who served as IFUW President from 1977-1980. She was a noted educationist, who saw education as the key to better conditions for women worldwide and worked passionately through IFUW at the international, national and local levels. Her gift is much appreciated.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF ASIA TO MEET IN SINGAPORE, 1-2 MAY 2009

The University Women's Association (Singapore) will host the 8th Triennial Conference of the University Women of Asia (UWA) with the theme "Promoting Financial Literacy Among Women and Girls". Now, more than ever before, in the current economic crisis that is sweeping the world, there is a great need for women and girls to be educated in common financial literacy principles and attain a measure of financial capability that will both enable and empower them in all aspects of their life. The UWA Conference address a wide range of issues, from financial literacy programmes in schools, to debt management, microcredit and planning for retirement. The meeting is open to all IFUW members. For more information see <http://www.uwas.org/index.php?click=UWAConference>.

FRENCH ASSOCIATION WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The French Association of University Women (AFFDU) has been awarded the 2009 Irene Joliot-Curie Prize for mentoring. This prize, awarded annually by the Ministry of Education and EADS Foundation, was created in 2001 and is awarded every year by Ministry of Education and EADS Foundation to promote women in research and technology in France and to highlight women's exemplary scientific career paths marked by excellence and dynamism. AFFDU was honoured its outstanding work over the years encouraging and mentoring young women entering scientific careers.

ALERT - CONFERENCE SCAMS

Several IFUW members have reported receiving invitations to fictitious conferences. We urge our members to be cautious when registering for conferences that have been advertised on the internet. Do not divulge any personal information or transfer funds until you are certain the event is legitimate. For some hints that a conference might not be real, please see <http://www.ifuw.org/docs/conf-scams.shtml>.