



IFUW BLOG LOOKS AT ACHIEVING FULL GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

We have re-launched the [IFUW Blog](http://www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/), offering members and potential members an on-line space to share views and hear the thoughts of others on a wide range of issues. New blog topics will be posted every two weeks, on Wednesdays. The first blog looks at achieving full gender equality in education. According to UNESCO, girls in many countries are catching up or surpassing boys in achievement test results at the primary and secondary levels, even in the maths and sciences. Yet, at the tertiary level, some subject areas remain “male domains”, especially in science and engineering. In half the countries with data, women account for more than two-thirds of students in fields long considered ‘feminine’, such as education, health and welfare. Why is there such a difference in educational outcomes? Is this still a problem in your country? Are girls and boys treated differently in the classroom? Is sexual stereotyping still present in textbooks? What can we do to remedy the situation? We hope you will visit the IFUW Blog and tell IFUW members, as well as other women graduate colleagues and friends, to share their experiences at <http://www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/>.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 BINA ROY PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (BRPID)

Twenty four projects were funded by the BRPID programme in 2008, each addressing pressing needs in local communities. The attached flyer provides highlights from four of the project reports. The project in Uganda promoted education for single teenage parents. The one in Georgia provided skills-training to refugee women, unemployed women and women with physical disabilities. The Egyptian project partnered with Shell Egypt to provide the skills training and funding needed for young women graduates to start new businesses and develop business projects. In India, IFUW members took aptitude testing materials into secondary schools in low income areas across the country, helping to identify interests, talents and skills of teenage girls and offering mentoring. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of IFUW national federations and associations, local branches and individual members. The flyer will give you a first glimpse of what the BRPID programme accomplishes. Please help us circulate the flyer widely to other members in your national federation or association (NFA). Information from the other 2008 BRPID project reports can be found on the BRPID site at: <http://www.ifuw.org/brpid/index.shtml>.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN CYBERSPACE

In the past ten years the number of internet users has increased from 186 million to 1.5 billion; in the same period, Interpol (the world's largest international police organization) went from 12 reports of child abuse material per year to 1.5 million. The cyber safety of the world's children is a growing concern. This was one of the issues at the recent 2009 WSIS Global Forum, part of the the continuing follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society held in 2003 and in 2005. IFUW participated in several of the 2009 Global Forum workshops, including one on *Protecting Children from Cyber-exploitation*. The workshop highlighted the numerous threats to children who do not possess the judgment to recognize and deal with online predators, improper content, and potential exploitation. The threats are not all external. Michael Moran, of Interpol, warned that young girls are too often exploring their own sexuality in a very public, online atmosphere, instead of in a safe private environment. They have the technology to upload pictures and video onto the web. In these instances the girl is both the victim and the perpetrator. Children and adults must learn to be more media literate together in order to have the safest online experience possible. To help end cyber exploitation of children, Interpol is encouraging people worldwide to report any explicit photos of children to their

regional Interpol offices for entry in an international databank. A photo reported in one country can help to save a report in another.

For the full IFUW report on the WSIS Global Forum, see

http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009_WSIS_forum_report.pdf

Erin Liepa, IFUW Intern

CYBERHATE: DANGER IN CYBERSPACE

The latest seminar in the United Nation's "Unlearning Tolerance" annual series looked at two specific risks the Internet poses to young people - cyberhate and cyber bullying. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon opened the seminar by saying that a top priority of the UN is protecting children by preventing abuse by racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. While the internet has brought much good to the world, it also causes anguish and suffering because of those who use it to target religious and ethnic and minorities or bullying youth. Speakers stressed the need for parents, teachers and teenagers to become more skeptical about the information posted on the web by asking key questions: Who put up the information? Why was it posted? What was the objective? More also needs to be done by schools, the IT industry and NGOs to help people recognize hate speech. Speakers warned of the rise and consequences of cyber bullying - when a child, preteen or teen is harassed, threatened, or humiliated by a peer using the internet, mobile phones or other interactive digital technology. Some countries are having success combating the problem through teen peer counseling programmes. For the full report and links to other information, see:

http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009_CyberHate_Seminar.pdf

Loretta P. James, IFUW Representative, New York

REACHING OUT TO NEW MEMBERS

Finding ways to attract new members is one of the biggest challenges facing NFAs in all regions. To help give ideas, the IFUW Membership Committee has compiled a list of suggestions from its 2008 Survey on Membership Best Practices . The list highlights some of the strategies NFAs are using both to recruit and to retain members. If your NFA or local group has other strategies to share, please send your ideas to memcom@ifuw.org.

To view the list: http://www.ifuw.org/docs/2009_membership_best_practice.pdf

YOUNG MEMBERS' JUNE NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

The June edition features a portrait of a Zambian member working as a veterinarian in South Africa, an article on a public health project in the Inner Mongolia region of China, a report on an Eco event 'Be Veg Go Green, Save the Planet', an article on the Inequalities of Social Security for Women in Developing Countries (in French) and another on the Fight Against HIV/AIDS in Togo (in French). All articles are written by members of the Network. The YM newsletter is published twice a year. Those interested in submitting an article for the December edition should contact Evelyn Aremu.

To view the June edition: <http://www.ifuw.org/ym/2009-06-ym-newsletter.pdf>

To view previous editions: <http://www.ifuw.org/ym/index.shtml>

To join the network: <http://www.ifuw.org/networks/subscribe-ym.shtml>

NEW OPENING HOURS FOR IFUW HEADQUARTERS

Effective immediately, IFUW Headquarters in Geneva is open from 8.00 to 17.00 (CET time) Monday to Thursday and closed on Friday. Visits to Headquarters on Fridays will still be possible by advance appointment. The office will be closed for the mid-year break from 27 July to 9 August, inclusive.