



## **EXCERPT FROM THE MESSAGE FROM THE IFUW PRESIDENT**

It was my pleasure to attend the CFUW Annual General Meeting “From Grassroots to the Future - Des Débuts jusqu’à l’Avenir”, held recently in Winnipeg. The highlights for me were the focused programme and the strong debates about advocacy issues that are keenly proposed for national consideration by the Canadian regions. Kathleen Laurila (WG-USA CIR), Phyllis Scott (IFUW Vice-President) and I presented a workshop chaired by Ardith Toogood (CFUW CIR). We spoke about IFUW and the power of women worldwide. We covered the past history and raison d’être for IFUW, the present strategic direction and advocacy work in the four United Nations’ centres. We also spoke about the future, the website, available material and friendship possibilities. Participants were surprised at the range of services and activities that IFUW was able to provide internationally in a focused and persistent way. We also shared the plans for the Triennial Conference in Mexico in August 2010. It was good to hear that many members are planning to attend. Thank you to IFUW and CFUW for enabling me to attend. For the full message: <http://www.ifuw.org/memcorner/2009messagepresident.shtml>.

*Louise Croot, IFUW President*

## **ECE BEIJING+15 REVIEW MEETING**

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Beijing+15 Review Meeting will take place in Geneva from 2-3 November 2009. The meeting will review progress on gender-sensitive economic policies and practices in the context of the economic and financial crisis; gender and the corporate sector; new partnerships, networks and alliances for gender equality. Members living in ECE countries who are interested in being part of IFUW's delegation should write to [ifuw@ifuw.org](mailto:ifuw@ifuw.org) no later than 30 September 2009. Places are limited. No funding is available. For more information, please see <http://www.unece.org/gender/Beijing15.html>.

## **NGO INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLES ON “THE CHALLENGES OF GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS”**

A series of special Interactive Roundtables will be held in Geneva on 30-31 October, immediately prior to the ECE Beijing+15 Review meeting. These discussions will give ECE regional NGOs an opportunity to address challenges, not only from the economic and financial aspects but in all critical areas treated in the Beijing Platform for Action. Recommendations from the roundtables will go forward to the official ECE Review Meeting for consideration. The roundtables are open to all interested participants. The registration deadline is 12 October 2009. No funding is available.

For the agenda: [http://www.ngocongo.org/files/provisional\\_agenda\\_unece\\_beijing\\_15.pdf](http://www.ngocongo.org/files/provisional_agenda_unece_beijing_15.pdf)

To register: [http://www.ngocongo.org/files/registration\\_form\\_unece\\_beijing\\_15.pdf](http://www.ngocongo.org/files/registration_form_unece_beijing_15.pdf)

## **WORK ADVANCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION DECLARATION**

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee met in August. High on its agenda was a discussion of a draft declaration on human rights education and training. This declaration will seek to combat discrimination deeply rooted in society and to promote legal literacy, important for those affected to recognize their own rights. The Advisory Committee also discussed the lack of progress in preparing guidelines on methods to operationalize gender mainstreaming (including action-oriented mechanisms with the HRC and other organs within the UN system).

For the full report: [http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009\\_HRCAdvisoryCommittee.pdf](http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2009_HRCAdvisoryCommittee.pdf)

*Lucy Howe Lopez, IFUW UN Representative in Geneva*

## **NFA ADVOCACY SUMMARY**

At the end of 2008, the IFUW Status of Women Committee asked national federations and associations for information about recent advocacy efforts. Many interesting projects were reported. The Scottish Federation, for example, made submissions to Government on two aspects of the judicial system: Children's Hearings and the Role of the Jury in Criminal Trials. Canadian clubs worked with Provincial Governments to develop action against bullying. The Australian Federation worked in coalition with other NGOs on a wide range of issues, including the economic independence of women and paid parental leave.

For the full summary: [http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2008\\_advocacy\\_action\\_report.pdf](http://www.ifuw.org/advocacy/reports/2008_advocacy_action_report.pdf).

*Dorothy Meyer, IFUW Status of Women Committee Convener*

## **EXCERPTS FROM AN EDUCATION REPORT FROM PAKISTAN**

Two members of the Pakistan Federation shared a moving account "From Gloom to Chase" of a series of special camps designed to promote science subjects, particularly physics, at secondary school level in rural areas of the country. "We discovered that life is worth living still in the backdrop of the current social and economic upheaval and the bomb blasts..." At the first workshop about 100 students and 20 teachers from government schools took part, 50% were girls. It was amazing that "in an era where girls' schools and colleges are being destroyed by militants and suppression of the female child is the norm, so many girls could stay away from their homes for five straight days." We were impressed by the students trying to understand the principle of an experiment and its underlying concept to later discuss them amongst themselves. Only a real teacher can understand our joy on the responses of those eager learners. In Nawabshah, we repeated the exercise for another 100 students, again 50 per cent were girls. Informal sessions of spontaneous oratory, poetry, jokes and music unearthed the hidden talents. "How we wish that our leaders could organise a huge EXCEL camp for the entire nation in order to dissolve the ethnic, racial, language and religious prejudices."

For the full account: [http://www.ifuw.org/docs/2009\\_pfw\\_gloom\\_to\\_chase.pdf](http://www.ifuw.org/docs/2009_pfw_gloom_to_chase.pdf).

*Dr Aquila Islam, CIR, and Professor Aziz Fatima, Founding Member, Pakistan Federation*

## **IFUW YOUNG MEMBERS 20 YEARS LATER**

The CIR of the Finnish Federation would like help identifying the members in a photograph of young women who participated in a roundtable at the 1989 IFUW Conference in Helsinki. Some, like Terry Oudraad of the Netherlands, Catherine Mas of France and Birgit Zich of Germany are already known. Please contact Leena-Maija Laurén - [Leena-Maija.Lauren@tse.fi](mailto:Leena-Maija.Lauren@tse.fi) if you can identify anyone else in the photo - [http://www.ifuw.org/imgs/nfas/helsinki\\_young\\_members\\_1989.jpg](http://www.ifuw.org/imgs/nfas/helsinki_young_members_1989.jpg). The photo will be used in the Finnish Federation magazine later this year.

## **WOMEN GRADUATES-USA TO MEET IN OCTOBER**

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Women Graduates-USA "s Moving Our Minds...the World's in Motion" will take place in Long Beach, California on 16 – 17 October. Members of other IFUW national federations and associations, as well as IFUW Independent Members are welcome to attend. Issues to be addressed include Public Art as a tool for communicating the Peace Agenda by Vice President Glenda Ramsden of the Mexican Federation; an overview of Trafficking in the US by an officer of the US State Department; ratification in the US (finally!) of CEDAW; awomen from the Asian and Afghan community speaking on immigration issues in the US; and images of women in the media. For more information, please write to [klaurila@mac.com](mailto:klaurila@mac.com).

*Kathleen Laurila, WG-USA CIR*

## **THE HANDKERCHIEF PROJECT TO END VIOLENCE**

The Handkerchief Project to End Violence against Women and Girl is asking women all over the world to support their campaign by sending a brightly colored piece of fabric, that doesn't exceed 18 inches by 18 inches square, along with a note to tell them your experience or your feelings about gender based violence. The fabric will be used in a special exhibit in commemoration of the Montreal Massacre in 1989, when 14 women were murdered, as well as the millions of women and girls around the world who have been brutalized because of their gender. The exhibit will be unveiled in Toronto on 6 December and will travel around Canada before ending in the Canadian Human Rights Museum. For more information about the project and where to send handkerchiefs, please write to [thehandkerchiefproject@yahoo.ca](mailto:thehandkerchiefproject@yahoo.ca) or consult <http://www.TheHandkerchiefProject.ca>.

## **SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS ON WOMEN'S CAREERS**

A German student in "Strategic Human Resource Management" is writing a master's thesis about women expatriates and how an international assignment influences their careers. She is looking both for women who have had international assignments and for those who have not, in order to be able to compare the careers of the two groups. If you are willing to take part in this survey, you can find links to the questionnaire in both English and German at: <http://www.ifuw.org/memcorner/index.shtml#research>.