

The Jans Gremmée Award (JGA)

1. Introduction

After the Second World War the European world changed rapidly. Several international institutions were founded, like the Council of Europe in 1949 and the European Economic Community in 1957. In 1952 the Council of Europe created the possibility to obtain Consultative Status for international non-governmental organizations.

At the occasion of the 16th IFUWi Conference in Karlsruhe, Germany, a small group of participants took the initiative for the European associations/federations to start studying the consequences of the European developments for their organizations. Several meetings were held and in 1975, Jans Gremmée inquired at the IFUW headquarters if and how headquarters could help to further nomination of capable European women in positions of influence and decision-making in the new Europe. IFUW answered that it would undertake activities on a global level only. This meant that for any actions to the further interests of women in Europe, European associations/federations had to bundle their forces at a regional, European level.

In 1977 a few European participants at the 19th IFUW Conference Stirling, Scotland, took up the initiative to realize the Consultative Status for a new NGO to be founded for the University Women in Europe. A proposal thereto was launched by German DAB's Gisela Kessel (†) and the Dutch VVAO's Jans Gremmée in 1978. Several meetings were held and during a meeting in Luxembourg 28-29. November 1981 UWE started its official life. At that time, fourteen European NFAs (countries) participated. The Seat was to be in Switzerland. In 1982 the first Executive was chosen, with Jans Gremmée as its president.

Nowadays UWE is a network of Associations of University Women from twenty two European countries working in partnership with the Council of Europe and the European Women's Lobby to address issues impacting the lives of academic women throughout the European community. Its aim is to work towards an achievement of the goals of the Council of Europe and also to cooperate with all other European governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with European matters and in particular questions affecting the lives of academic women.

2. The sponsor of the Award

The VVAO, the Dutch affiliation of UWE, strongly believes in the European cooperation of IFUW-NFA's. This European cooperation has been immensely improved by the founding of UWE. In the year 2006 UWE has reached a milestone and celebrates her 25th anniversary – her silver jubilee. As a celebration present the VVAO wishes to honour UWE's founders and especially Jans Gremmée with an award that will bear her name. The award will consist of 11 brooches; the first brooch will be for Jans Gremmée and will be the Master.

This Master Jans Gremmée Award will be presented to her on the 25th anniversary of UWE. Of the remaining 10 brooches, the first will be awarded during the UWE 2006 event to the award winner 2006. In the successive 9 years it will be handed to European Women who will present their award winning results to UWE-members during the annual UWE-meetings. Limiting the award to ten years symbolizes the change and progress orientation of the designer, the VVAO and of the UWE.

3. The aim

The purpose of the award is to promote UWE's principles laid down in the constitution of the UWE in relation to European Themes. The bearer of the JGA will be a role model for all members of the UWE so it will bring with it not only recognition but also responsibility.

4. The procedure

There will be a special JGA committee, consisting of one Board member, the CER of the hosting NFA and the award winner of the previous JGA. The JGA-committee will send out a call for nominees for the next award and will make a (non-debatable) selection.

5. The award-symbol

The Jans Gremmée Award, symbolized in a brooch, will be manufactured by Mrs. E. Vervoort by a design of Mrs. E. Focke. Both the design and product will become property of the VVAO. The brooch will be executed in grey silver metal and blue-white perplex. The design will be a figure on a futuristic staircase symbolizing the way up for European University Women. The 'up' can be freely interpreted and the loosely designed figure symbolizes 'anyone' regardless of gender, race or colour. The futuristic staircase is not straight, symbolizing that the way-up is not a straight line. The round background symbolizes that the spotlight is on the figure, a human being. The stars in the round background are symbolizing the stars of Europe. The loosely designed composition symbolizes the joy and positive attitude the European University Women are radiating.

6. Criteria for nomination for the JGA

- The award can only be awarded to a female citizen.
- The contribution for the nomination for the award must enhance European Matters and should be innovative.
- It is not obligatory that the award-winner is a member of UWE/IFUW. This is to make UWE outward-looking and innovative oriented.

7. The Master Jans Gremmée Award

Jans Gremmée received the Master award; in the first place for her role in founding UWE, the representative body for University Women in Europe, and a NGO on its own and secondly for her overall outstanding contribution on European University Women issues. This Master award is approved by the Steering Committee of the UWE2006 event.

ⁱ IFUW is an international, non-profit organization of women graduates working to promote lifelong education, to improve the status of women and girls and to enable women to effect positive change for a peaceful world. IFUW's 79 national affiliates and individual members of IFUW take an interdisciplinary approach to global issues in more than 120 countries by international advocacy, networking, research, conferences, seminars, workshops and local community projects.