

UWE NEWSLETTER 1 2007

Dear UWE-members,

Another two months of my UWE-presidency have passed and a lot has happened. In this newsletter you will find information on the following topics:

1. Council of Europe; International NGO Conference
2. IFUW meeting Geneva
3. EWL Board meeting Brussels
4. UWE Meetings in Manchester: August 12th 2007 Brainstorm session
August 15th 2007 General Assembly
5. Bid UWE Meeting 2008
6. Internet & Website
7. New European Project Steering Group
8. Upcoming Events and Special Days

1. Renée Gerard and I have attended the Winter INGO Conference at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Amongst others we have attended the General Assembly. An important topic on the agenda was the Intercultural Dialogue. You can find a summary of these discussion on our website: www.ifuw.org/uwe/reports.htm. You will also find the annual report 2006 from the Liaisons Committee there. For the role of structure of the INGO's within the Council of Europe and the role of the liaisons committee see: <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/ewl-cedaw.htm>. We have also attended several meetings of the different groupings. For information on the grouping see also: <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/ewl-cedaw.htm>
2. Renée Gerard and I have also been at the IFUW board and Committee meeting in Geneva.
During these sessions the budget 2007-2010 and the financial policies of the IFUW was discussed. Part of the agenda was also finalising the flyer for the new Programme of Action. It will partly continue on the 2004-2007 theme, but an important thing will be what and how we can contribute to the achievement of the UN Millennium Declaration. During the finance committee meeting we have also discussed the role IFUW might possibly play in making microcredits available for women in the poor villages. I am personally very involved in the Millennium Development Goals(MDG's) and Microcredits as I am organising workshops on these for local Nigerian Government Officers. Microcredits are really a good tool to empower women.
More information on the MDG's and Microcredits can be find on our website <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/ewl-cedaw.htm>.
3. Renée Gerard has attended her first EWL Board of Administrators Meeting in Brussels. It was a lively meeting with a lot of useful discussions. Some of the most important subjects for action and lobbying by the affiliates were: Actions for raising awareness of the public regarding the campaign "CARE " for dependent or handicapped persons
 - A draft déclaration asking for gender justice after an inventory of 50 years of European legislation and the gaps remaining for the implementation

- EWL participation to the 51st UN Commission of the Status of Women in New York 26 February to 10 March and the position paper prepared by EWL on violences against young girls.
 - A document regarding Human Rights in the European Union and questions regarding the Council of Human Rights
 - An intensive campaign to combat violences against women and an appeal to the associations to put pressure on their Governments to ratify CAHTEH, the European Convention against the traffic of Human beings adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and ratified actually by only 3 countries; it is necessary to implement it
- We also said good bye to Mary McPhail, who was the Secretary General for years. They have nearly recruited a new one.
4. The UWE General Assembly 2007 will take place on August 15th between 5.30 and 8.30 pm. in Manchester. Besides I have arranged a meeting room for a brainstorm session on European Activities and the future of UWE on the evening of August 12th. More information on the registration procedure for the General Assembly will follow in the next newsletter.
 5. As organising the yearly UWE meeting is quite a lot of work I would like to receive bids from the countries that are prepared to organise the UWE meeting 2008. Please send your bid in by April 15th. (uwepresident@ifuw.org)
 6. We are living in the Internet Age. It is giving us a cheap and easy way of communicating with a huge group of people. But I realise it might also exclude the ones that are not up-to-speed with the internet yet. There is no way back, so I hope the different local branches are assisting the individuals that are not online. Being part of the internet is really important, otherwise there will be another equality gap, as the men are all on the internet.
Anamaria Vere, IFUW HQ, has done a great job to renew the UWE-website. Please have a look.
 7. A new European Project Steering is formed.
The chairperson is Carita Martin from Åbo/Turku (carita.martin@bioturku.fi).
The two other members in the group are Kirsti Jukkola and Helena Koivisto (both also from Finland). I wish the three ladies a lot of interesting projects.
 8. It is always good to have an impression of what sort of international activities the different countries are organising and of course it is even more interesting when people from abroad are joining an event. Please I would ask the CER's or Presidents to keep me updated on the activities they are organising so I can include them in the calendar of events. (see: <http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/conferences.htm>).

Upcoming:

March 8 Scotland: A seminar on women's issues by international speakers at Dynamic Earth, a venue next to the Scottish Parliament followed by, late afternoon, a reception in Edinburgh Castle at which the BFWG booklet on Equal Pay for Women will be launched, with wide media coverage. (for info: margarettait@mac.com)

March 8 The Netherlands: A debat on the future of Women in Europe organised for the European Parliament; The UWE president will be one of the speakers (info: uwepresident@ifuw.org)

23-26 March General Assembly French Association of University Women (AFFDU) and cultural activities in Montpellier

24-25 March General assembly of the Swiss Federation, in Solothurn. Further information available from [Verena Welti](#)

June 19th Gender Equality Day. Futher information on see:

<http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/conferences.htm>

Warm regards,

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