

UWE NEWSLETTER 2009 number 2

Dear UWE-members,

In this newsletter, you will find information on the following topics:

1. Organisational messages
2. News from the Treasurer
3. News from the EWL
4. IFUW news
5. Other news
6. Upcoming Events and Special Days

THE REGISTRATION FOR THE UWE EVENT 2009 HAS STARTED. IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 15, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE OF 32 EUROS! (For the registration form go to www.ifuw.org/uwe see middle block announcements). For the detailed programme see: www.vaoc.at, header: UWE TAGUNG

1. Organisational messages

a) The UWE Meeting will take place at the Juridicum, Universitat Wien, Schottenbastei 10-16 in the Old City of Vienna.

Programme parts are:

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|-------------|------------------------|---|
| 3 September | 10 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. | Registration and Welcome drinks (Club Rooms VAO) |
| 4 September | 9 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. | Conference on “EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP AND DECISIONMAKING” “The Consequences of Project- and Flex-jobs on the Lives and Careers of Women” |
| 5 September | 9 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. | General Assembly |
| | Evening: | Get together at the “Heuriger” |
| 6 September | 8.00 a.m. – 9.00 p.m. | Day trip to Linz – European Capital of Culture 2009 |
| | | Or |
| | 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m. | Sightseeing in Vienna |

Hotel recommendations: (see website www.vaoc.at for email addresses etc.)

- Hotel France; price indication €139 for a single or double room (Breakfast 26 Euros per day)
- Hotel Regina; price indication €118 for a single or €198 double room (Breakfast incl.)
- Hotel Rathauspark; price indication €128 for a single or €170 double room (Breakfast incl.)
- Pension Lehrerhausverein; email hotel@ahv.at
- Benediktus House; price €70 for a single and €107 for double room (Breakfast incl.)
- Kolpinghaus; price €57 for a single and €81 for double room (Breakfast incl.)

The first five are in the close proximity of the Conference Location. The Kolpinghaus is in another part of Vienna City centre.

b) The Swiss Federation has elected a new CER: Nicole Wespi, a Young Member living in Bern

c) The Executive hold their meeting in Brussels April 3 and 4. We started the preparation of the GA in Vienna and discussed the progress on the different UWE Working Parties. Besides, we have visited the office of the European Women’s Lobby. They gave as a presentation on their recent activities, in particular the 50/50-Campaign for the upcoming Elections of the European Parliament.

2. News from the Treasurer

Finance: For a Treasurer, the first quarter of the year is usually a very busy time. This is true for Elsbeth von Navarini, the UWE Treasurer, who in this period did the Statement of Accounts, sent it to the designated Examiners, wrote the Financial Report, reset the Accounting tables, the Dues tables, and sent the annual Dues Invoice to members. **She thanks all members who paid promptly, and appeals to those who have not yet paid to transfer their dues as soon as possible. UWE's action depends on member funding. Thank you.**

Marketing: The Treasurer has also developed a leaflet for UWE. Its purpose is to help position UWE, that is, to help UWE to be seen and heard in the overcrowded marketplace of women's associations. The brochure presents UWE's objectives, activities and USP. It is aimed at grabbing attention and holding interest.

Visit of UWE related Meeting: On the 20th and the 21st of February 2009, the UWE Treasurer attended the IFUW Board Meeting in Geneva as one of 26 Observers. The meeting was very interesting, because one could catch a glimpse of the inner workings of the very professionally led IFUW. Of special interest for our Treasurer were of course the various sessions of the Finance Committees. A highlight was the newly presented IFUW Finance Policy and the IFUW Investment Policy.

3. News from the European Women's Lobby

EWL work during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York, 02.03-13.03.2009 –The EWL drafted and submitted two sets of written amendments to the draft agreed conclusions concerning “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS” and used them to lobby governments. The EWL also coordinated the two meetings of the European women's caucus and linked with EU missions and the Czech EU Presidency. Discussions focused on the agreed conclusions, but also on preparing for Beijing +15 (2010) and on the UN reform and the proposed new UN women's rights architecture (GEAR Campaign). More information: greboval@womenlobby.org

The Polish women's Lobby ask Commissioner Špídla to monitor the protection and advancement of women's rights in Poland – On 7 April 2009, one year will have passed since representatives of Polish women's groups met with Commissioner Vladimir Špídla; a meeting where women's groups outlined the failure of the Polish government to implement EU directives and policy on gender equality. As there is still no significant progress in this area, the Polish Women's Lobby invites the Commissioner to participate in the launch of a set of roundtables to advance women's rights. [Click here to read the Full letter](#)

EWL open letter - In light of the Spring Council held on 19 and 20 March, the EWL sent an open letter to Heads of Governments calling for measures to meet women's needs in time of crisis. Indeed, the EWL believes that the EU must pay special attention to women who in many ways will be the first targeted by the current financial and economic crisis. The EWL also called on Member States to adopt a gender perspective in designing recovery packages. Moreover, EWL stressed the importance of taking effective measures to conciliate private and professional life. More information: collins@womenlobby.org

EWL has held a Gender Audit - The European Parliament elections in June 2009 are rapidly approaching. Political parties are yet again to play a key role in these elections as they make the final decisions about who will be included on the electoral lists. Their electoral programmes are also important as they contribute to the shaping of political priorities. For these reasons the 50/50 Campaign has hold an Audit in order to evaluate national political parties' commitment to gender equality.

Maternity leave directive - The EWL sent its amendments regarding Ms Estrela report on the revision of maternity leave directive. Most of them were tabled by different MEP's. The EWL demands 24 weeks of maternity leave including 6 weeks fully paid regardless of the woman's economic status. The Committee on Women's Rights of the European Parliament will discuss 107 amendments to Ms Estrela's draft report on 31 March. For more information, please contact Mary Collins: collins@womenlobby.org

4. IFUW news

IFUW OPENS PROGRAMME CONSULTATION

As a result of the 2008/2009 Programme Survey, the IFUW Board of Officers and Status of Women Committee (SWC) have adopted a new process to give national Federations and associations (NFAs) and members a greater voice in identifying the priority issues to be included in the next Programme for Action (PfA). All NFAs and members are invited to take part in Phase 1 of the consultation by using the [online form](#). Replies to these questions are due by 27 May 2009. Regular updates on the consultation process will be posted at: <http://www.ifuw.org/consultation/>.

30th IFUW CONFERENCE UPDATE

The IFUW Board of Officers and the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) are planning an exciting conference for 2010. The 30th IFUW Conference will be held in the Gran Melia Reforma Hotel in the heart of Mexico City, from 5-9 August 2010. FEMU is planning a series of one-day tours to give participants an opportunity to visit the city's amazing archeology museum, to explore charming colonial quarters, to tour the National Autonomous University of Mexico (a World Heritage site) and to trace the steps of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera (two of Mexico's most famous artists). More details will be available soon at <http://www.ifuw.org/ifuw2010/>.

IFUW WITHDRAWS FROM PROJECT FIVE-O

IFUW gave formal notice in February 2008 that it is withdrawing from Project Five-O, the partnership of five-women's international organizations it helped found in 1980 to provide vocational training for women and girls in developing countries. Zonta International and Soroptimist International have also withdrawn. While the programme supported many worthwhile projects over the years, recently funding had been very uneven; Soroptimists International was providing a significantly disproportionate share. IFUW will continue to work closely on common advocacy priorities with its former Five-O partners at the international level. IFUW NFAs and local groups are encouraged to continue collaboration with our former Five-O partners at the national and local levels.

A RECORD HIGH FOR WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

According to the latest analysis undertaken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a record number of women now hold seats in parliament following elections and renewals that took place in 54 countries in 2008. On average, women hold 18.3% of the seats across all chambers of parliament. This represents a 60% increase in the number of women parliamentarians since 1995. In addition, for the first time, 15% of parliamentary chambers in 32 countries have reached 30% or more women members. For more information, see:

Women in Parliament in 2008 - The Year in Perspective:

<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmn08-e.pdf>

Equality in Politics – A Survey of Women and Men in Parliaments:

<http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-e.pdf>

IFUW JOINED EUROPEAN INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Unfortunately, the Eu did not approve this research project "NANCY goes into research".

5. Other news

AFFDU has received the prestige's Irène Joliot-Curie price

The Ministry of Higher Education and Research has awarded the French Association of University Women (AFFDU) the "Prix Irène Joliot-Curie" in the Category "Mentoring". They were laured for the actions they have undertaken in favour of young girls following impressive studies.

Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys on Achieving Gender Equality Rio de Janeiro March 29 – April 3, 2009

The Goals of the Engaging Men Group are:

1. To increase involvement of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality and the reduction of violence against women by scaling up existing work;
2. To build skills and capacity of NGOs committed to working with men and boys for gender equality;
3. To promote dialogue between existing NGO efforts, policy makers and private sector;
4. To highlight existing policies and best practices that can be reproduced to promote greater gender equality through the involvement of men and boys;
5. To build, strengthen, and expand a growing international network of programs, activists and policy makers dedicated to engaging men and boys in gender equality.

During the Conference, the Rio Declaration was adopted. The declaration consists of a Plan of Action containing subject as Violence against Women and Men as caregivers. The last part is The Call to Action:

1. Individuals should take action within their families, communities and be agents of change to promote gender equality.
2. Community based organisations should continue their groundbreaking work to challenge the status quo of gender and other inequalities and actively model social change.

For the entire declaration and more information:

www.engagingmen2009.org/42?locale=en_US

Women's Rights in Afghanistan

The horribly suppressed Afghan women, especially now, need our support and solidarity. At least we can raise our voices and make people in our countries aware of the severe violations of human rights of women in Afghanistan. We further can urge our governments on national level not any longer to support regimes that are going to severely violate women's human rights on purpose.

In the face of UNIFEM's *Say NO to Violence against Women* campaign how shall we, members of UWE, be going to deal with the actually threatening regress of women's rights in Afghanistan and with the continuously increasing violence against Afghan women almost covered by new legislation.

The German branch of the University Women of Europe, Deutscher Akademikerinnenbund, is just going to prepare such a letter of protest being sent to the German government.

Research Consultancy Opportunity

The Central America Women's Network is looking for a consultant to prepare a research report that presents an analysis of the main theoretical discussions and feminist debates about patriarchy, gender relations and violence and the links to poverty within the current economic system. For more information see: www.cawn.org

6. Upcoming Events and Special Days

- 15 May WIDE conference "'Microcredit: an alternative to women's empowerment?" in Brussels, for the programme look at: <http://www.wide-network.org/>
- 16 May Annual general Meeting Scottish Federation in Perth, www.sfuw.org.uk
- 20-24 May Mentoring Project meeting in Izmir, Turkey
- 4-7 June 7th European Feminist Research Congress, Utrecht University, Utrecht, <http://www.7thfeministconference.org/>
- 5-7 June General Assembly of the French Association in Grenoble, www.affdu.fr
- 13 June General Assembly of the Dutch Association in Utrecht, www.vvao.nl
- 17-22 July European summer program for young graduate women on peaceful communication, Portugal, e-mail: info@extravaleren.nl

Warm regards,

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