

## UWE NEWSLETTER 2007 number 4

Dear UWE-members,

This is the fourth newsletter in 2007. In this newsletter, you will find information on the following topics:

1. General Assembly UWE 2007
2. Organisational messages
3. News on the Council of Europe
4. News on the European Women's Lobby
5. Reconstituting Democracy in Europe Project (RECON)
6. UWE President met with the Belfast Chapter of the Irish Federation of University Women
7. UWE President met with the Bulgarian Association of University Women
8. Austrian Association of University Women celebrated their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary
9. Upcoming Events and Special Days

### 1. General Assembly UWE 2007

The GA in Manchester was successful. Spain and Turkish Cyprus became full members. Iceland and Scotland attended as observers.

Gerda Leushuis was elected as the new UWE Secretary.

Helen Dunsmore received the Jans Gremmee award 2007.

For the draft minutes and Helen's speech see: [www.ifuw/uwe/activity](http://www.ifuw/uwe/activity) report

### 2. Organisational messages

- a. The Scottish Federation of University Women will become UWE member in January 2008
- b. Austria has celebrated its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- c. Griselda Kenyon is the new CER of the British Federation of University Women

### 3. News on the Council of Europe

The fourth INGO Conference 2007 took place in Strasbourg from October 1 until October 4. As usual, Renée Gerard our vice president represented us there.

It was a useful meeting. Amongst others, an important discussion on the legislation around prostitution took place. For more information: [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

### 4. News on the European Women's Lobby

The EWL General Assembly was held on 26-27 October in Borovets, Bulgaria. Meetings of the EWL Executive Committee and Board of Administration took place on 25 and 26 October. The General Assembly brought together about a hundred delegates, observers and guests from 29 EU Member States and accession countries, and representatives from European wide NGO's.

The UWE president and vice-president did both attend these meetings.

For more information on the General Assembly and the seminar on Advancing Migrants Women's Rights in the European Union see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity) reports and under the heading women's rights EWL.

### 5. Reconstituting Democracy in Europe Project (RECON)

A 5 years project on Reconstituting Democracy in Europe was started early this year.

The UWE-president did attend the first open workshop, which was held in Belfast for working programme 4: Gender Justice and Democracy in Europe. Working programme 4 is presiding by the director of the Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics at Queen's University Belfast.

For more information on RECON see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe/women's rights](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/women's%20rights)

#### 6. UWE President met with the Belfast Chapter of the Irish Federation of University Women

On 27 September, the UWE-president met with 10 members of the Irish Federation of University Women in Belfast. We evaluated the General Assembly and had a fruitful discussion on the UWE and its European projects and how we can become more active within the European wide lobby organisations.

#### 7. UWE President met with the Bulgarian Association of University Women

On 23 October Willemijn van der Meer met with members of the Bulgarian Association of Women Graduates. I met many energetic women in a wonderful lecture hall in the University of Sofia.

Because of this meeting, UWE did prepare an emergency resolution for the General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby to support the Bulgarian Teachers Unions strike.

For more details see: [www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity reports](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity%20reports)

#### 8. Austrian Association of University Women celebrated their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary

From all over Austria and from different Western European countries graduated women, members of UWE and IFUW, have accepted the invitation and came to Vienna to be present at the celebration of this anniversary.

In the Palace Epstein, the president of Austria's national council, Mrs.Mag. Barbara Prammer is VAO's host. She is the keynote speaker during the function and emphasizes that every woman who has reached the top should take two young women at her hand to give them support and to mentor them on their road up to the top.

Gerda Leushuis, UWE Secretary, attended the event. For a report see:

[www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity reports](http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/activity%20reports).

#### 9. Upcoming Events and Special Days

13-16 December	European project Mentoring meeting in Vaasa, Finland
21-24 January	1 <sup>st</sup> INGO Conference 2008 Council of Europe in Strasbourg
26-27 January	EWL boardmeeting in Brussels
5 April	General Assembly of the Swiss Association in Fribourg
18-20 April	Chancengleichheit in Europe by the German Federation in Freiburg
19 April	European Day by the British Federation in London

Arielle Wagenknecht did the French translation of this newsletter. Arielle thanks a lot!

Warm regards,

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