

ICW-CIF

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Contents

- 2 President's Message
- 3 Report on 2019 Spring Board Meeting
- 4 UN CSW63 Report
- 11 Reports from the UN Representatives
- 18 Reports from the Standing Committees
- 24 Reports from the Member Councils (NCWs)
- 39 Upcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN



CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES

Headquarters 19, Rue Vignon, 75008 Paris, France
Secretariat #1910, Korea Business Center, 309, Gangnam-daero, Seocho-Gu, Seoul, 06628, Korea
Tel. +82 2 3454 2002 Fax. +82 2 3474 6193 Website. www.icw-cif.com
Email. icw.jskim@gmail.com, icw.secretariat@gmail.com



President's Message



Dear ICW-CIF sisters and friends,

Greetings! I hope each of you find great joy and satisfaction in all the things that you do. Spring has come and gone in the blink of an eye and summer now greets us in Seoul.

Last March, I attended the 63rd Session of the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women in New York and met with many ICW sisters and friends. This year's UN CSW theme was "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

As usual, all the ICW events held on March 14, 15, and 21, were well attended and well-received. I believe all our events were highly successful in terms of providing comprehensive background of social protection and engaging vigorous discussions about transforming the design and delivery of social protection systems for gender equality and women's empowerment. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all ICW board members, delegates and the speakers for their remarkable contributions to the great success of our side and parallel events.

At the 35th General Assembly in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, we, ICW, adopted our triennial theme for 2019-2021 titled "Social protection for women and girls: Sustainable development for the world." I am pleased that we are focusing on social protection and sustainable development for women's empowerment in our current triennial theme.

Women face various obstacles when it comes to access to public services and social protections that they need. According to statistics from 2015, 740 million women currently work in the informal economy without access to social protection.

Social protection systems and public services must be transformed to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality. As the chair of UNCSW63, H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason said, social protection can serve as safety net and also a tool to level out the playing field to ensure that women can get equal access to opportunities and participation in their society.

In order to ensure that all social protection interventions are beneficial for women's empowerment and gender equality, ICW and its affiliates should work for the development of gender-sensitive social protection policies and programs that benefit all women and girls.

I believe with all my heart that we women can indeed change the world to create a better place. To do so, unity of effort is essential. Let us all, ICW sisters and friends, be at the forefront of bringing about the empowerment of women and lead the world to positive transformation. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Jungsook Kim (Ed.D)
President of International Council of Women



Report on 2019 Spring Board Meeting



ICW-CIF Board held its spring board meeting in New York on March 16 - 17, 2019. During her president report, President Jungsook Kim expressed appreciation to Vice-President Giwo Rubianto and KOWANI team for hosting a successful General Assembly, and to all the ICW sisters and the two past presidents, Cosima Schenk and Anamah Tan, for their participation. She also elaborated on her

trips to the Philippines and Taiwan to promote ICW-CIF and meet with NCW leaders there. Preparations for CSW began in November 2018 with drafting the written statement and organizing UN CSW63 events. In December 2018, she worked with assistance from ICW-CIF secretary Honey Kang on accreditation of the permanent representatives to the United Nations and its organizations in New York, Geneva, Paris, Vienna, Rome and Thailand as well as the delegates to CSW 63.

In addition to reviewing the status of funds, accounts and financial results of 2018, the board voted to co-opt Elisabeth Newman and Hean Bee Wee for their respective expertise on ICW matters. The board also decided on the members and chair of the Finance Committee: ICW President, the two Treasurers, Hean Bee Wee and Vice President Linda Liu (Chair). The board appointed Radhia Jerbi from Tunisia as Advisor for Legislation, Dr. Young-Ae Ha from Korea as Advisor of Education and Sharmila Yahya Zaini from Indonesia as Advisor of Consumer Affairs. When Vice President Doris Bingley, board member in charge of Small Development Fund and Affiliations joined by Skype, the board discussed possible candidates for new affiliations and the revival of inactive councils. Board members also discussed the criteria of the various funds available to support projects, Small Development Fund, Lydie Rossini Fund, LELAF fund, and Project Five-O and expressed their pleasure to meet Salome Bentick, the new President of LELAF, who attended the General Assembly in Yogyakarta.

Vice Presidents Jamal Hermes and Giwo Rubianto respectively announced that ECICW will be holding its general assembly in May in Chernihiv, Ukraine, and APRC is planning to hold its meeting in November in Pune, India. In addition to giving more information about India, Board Member Pushpa Hegde invited the board to hold its autumn board meeting in Pune, which was unanimously accepted. As the last agenda of the meeting, Treasurer Martine Marandel introduced Avignon, the venue of the upcoming Executive Committee Meeting in 2020 and began initial discussion of plans with the board.



UN CSW63 Report

Report on the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



The 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 11 - 22, 2019. The priority theme was "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls." More than 5,200 women and men representing civil society, along with 2,000 delegates from governments attended this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN's largest gathering on women's rights issues. During the UN CSW63, governments and civil society organizations addressed how social protection systems and access to public services and infrastructures can be implemented to improve the living conditions of women and girls and empower them for success.

Consultation Day

On March 10, NGO CSW NY Consultation Day program kicked off the UN's largest conference on women's rights, UN CSW. In her welcome message, NGO CSW Chair Susan O' Malley remarked that universal healthcare and access to infrastructure and public services are critical in moving gender equality and women's empowerment forward. An



Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason (left), moderator Sherine Tadros (center), and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka(right)

illuminating conversation between H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary General of UN and Executive Director of UN Women, addressed the importance of social protection, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the impact of ME-TOO movement on achieving gender equality.

They concluded by emphasizing that adoption of agreed conclusions by the 63rd Commission is necessary to identify important interventions that will move forward achievement of the SDG Agenda. The presentation of the 2019 Women of Distinction Award to the youngest recipient of the award, Gharsanay Ibnul Ameen, co-founder of the Afghan Girls Sustainable Education Project, preceded her speech on how she became a 22 year-old grassroots advocate for girls' and women's education and political leadership.



Gharsanay Ibnul Ameen



*Panel: Social Protection: Definition, Context and Vision.
Photo: NGO CSW NY*

The morning ended with a panel on the Social Protection: Definition, Context and Vision, where speakers from the ILO, Oxfam, FEMNET and DAWN talked about the qualities, components and objectives of social protection programs and importance of social protection floors. After the lunch break, Mayor William Peduto of Pittsburgh, PA accepted the Cities for

CEDAW Global Leadership Award and Lopa Banerjee, Director of Civil Society Division of UN Woman previewed plans for a global conference in France to celebrate the upcoming 25th anniversary of Beijing Platform for Action around the world. The afternoon panel of speakers focused on examples of effective social protection schemes to achieve equal pay in Iceland, zero hunger in Peru, ending violence against women in Nepal, protecting widows in Kenya and India, safe transportation for women in Egypt and ending child marriage in Bangladesh.

Opening Session of the CSW63

On March 11, the opening ceremony of the UN CSW63 took place at the General Assembly Hall of UN Headquarters in New York. The Chair of the UN CSW, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason called to order the 63rd CSW, adopted the provisional agenda and approved the organization of work as provided. She reiterated that the goal of the commission through their agenda to empower women is for women to have all the rights of men, to enjoy health care and to have access to social protection so that women can take their place in the world.



H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason

In his opening speech for CSW63, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres spoke on the importance of increasing women's participation in decision-making process in order to face our global crises ahead.



Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

The Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo- Ngcuka, emphasized that bold steps for social protection reform must be taken to help the most vulnerable women and push our agenda of gender equality forward. Noting that 70% of current social protection program is not transformative enough to help women out of poverty, she stressed the importance of access of women to the combination of social protection, public services, and infrastructure to help the poorest meet their basic needs and to close the gender gap. She concluded

that as the 10th anniversary of UN Women, the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325, and the year of Beijing+25 are approaching, time is up to deliver responses to the young and the aged.

The International Council of Women organized two side events and one parallel event this year, successfully attracting many participants to each of the events with an excellent group of speakers. ICW-CIF'S side event, "Social Protection for Women's Empowerment," was held on March 14 in Conference Room 11, UN Building. The parallel event was held under the title "Social Protection Measures on Health and Violence Against Women," on March 15,

on the second floor of UNCC. Another side event was co-hosted with WHO and Permanent Missions of Jamaica and Thailand on March 21.



Side Event on March 14, 2019

The panel speakers at the 14 March 2019 side event on "Social Protection for Women's Empowerment" included H.E. Ambassador Chull Joo Park, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations (UN), Dr. Anuradha Seth, UN Women Senior Policy Advisor on Economic Empowerment, Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, Dr. Martina Gredler, VP of CONGO, and Mazal Renford, ICW International Relations and Peace Advisor.



Dr. Jungsook Kim

ICW-CIF President Dr. Jungsook Kim expressed appreciation to Korean Mission for co-sponsoring the event in her welcome speech. She added that as "Social Protection for All Women: Sustainable Development for the World" has been newly adopted as the triennial theme for 2019-2021, International Council of Women will strive to promote and raise awareness of social protection for fulfillment of women's empowerment and SDGs.

Noting that women and girls do not enjoy equal access to social protection, the moderator of the event, Dr. Jun-hui Joo, President of Women's Institute for Negotiation and Leadership, introduced the speakers and led a vibrant Q&A that followed the speeches. The speakers covered theoretical underpinnings of social protection promoting women's empowerment and examples of good practices.

Besides welcoming the participants, co-host Ambassador Park highlighted three important elements of social protection: women's participation in the design and implementation of social protection system, sex disaggregated data and sustainable funding for gender equality, and social protection and public services for women's economic empowerment. He also introduced the Korean government's policies for gender equality such as promoting women's economic empowerment and equal pay, providing pensions to vulnerable



Amb. Chull-joo Park



groups, and raising awareness against violence against women in the workplace. He concluded by saying that empowering women is empowering the whole family and society.

Dr. Seth stressed the importance of social protection in poverty reduction, gender equality and equitable growth and she elaborated on the changing dynamics of labor and capital due to changing production processes. Noting that the informal economy employs 740 -million women who have limited access to social protection which affects their income and security, Dr. Seth reiterated that social protection should be designed systematically in consideration of complex gender dynamics that hinder women from entry into the formal economy, decent job opportunities, and access to public services. As an UN Women's Advisor for macroeconomic policies, Dr. Seth noted that macroeconomic policies must prioritize gender equality as a core objective. She concluded that broad political consensus must be built in support of gender inclusive growth and the economic value of women.



Mdm. Gertrude Mongella

It was particularly opportune that Dr. Gertrude Mongella joined the side event as preparations for reviewing Beijing +25 in 2020 was interspersed throughout CSW 63. As an excellent story teller, she managed to include a variety of topics in her speech. She addressed getting men involved in the discussion of gender equality, the insecurities facing old women, unpaid care work, violence against women, digital divide, lifelong education, economic plight of developing countries, advocacy, as well as increased social and political participation of women and girls. She concluded her speech as she stressed that women must be willing to engage in paid employment and influence decision makers to become involved and bring about meaningful change.

According to the Gender Equality section of The European Commission, women face multiple discriminations including migrants, young women and older women. Although ILO research suggests 71% of women have social protection, this is far from the reality. In order to change this reality, Dr. Gredler emphasized that more and better jobs need to be created to reflect the changing nature of work. She emphasized that social protection should be enhanced and adapted. Dr. Gredler added that education is key to improving the lives of women through developing and boosting skills to address the nature of work. Dr. Martina Gredler also gave various examples of social protection for victims of violence, such as victims having the right to take up to 10 days paid leave



Mazal Renford

from work in the Philippines, and companies in EU being encouraged to introduce flexible working schemes.

Mazal Renford stressed that paid maternity leave and childcare services are crucial to women's empowerment. She highlighted some examples of best practices of social protection schemes from her work in Africa, Asia and Latin America that showed clear



Dr. Anuradha Seth



Dr. Martina Gredler

linkage between social protection and women's empowerment. In the Dominican Republic women's collectives were formed in cooperation with the UNDP which had successfully empowered women from the poorest rural areas by helping them to start up their own businesses. Such training courses on women's empowerment with a focus on skill development and women's economic independence contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Parallel event on March 15, 2019



Despite starting at 9:30 am in the morning, the ICW-CIF parallel event on the March 15, "Social Protection Measures on Health and Violence Against Women," was also very well attended. ICW President Jungsook Kim warmly welcomed the speakers and participants and spoke of the important role of social protection to promote good health of women and girls and to prevent violence against women.



As the moderator, ICW Vice President, Linda Liu, pointed out that according to the World Health Organization, violence against women is a major public health issue and the cause of serious short or long-term physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health problems for women and girls. She emphasized that social protection helps to prevent poverty from unexpected health expenses

and if properly designed, can transform society through preventing violence against women and promoting social equity, women's empowerment and gender equality.

Dr. Mary Ellsberg, the Executive Director of the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University and a scholar on violence against women, spoke of the deep impact of violence against women on the mental and physical health and welfare of victims. She provided examples of effective social protection such as access to justice, rehabilitation services, survivor





centered programs, and inclusion of social components in the program. She further described some best practices like engagement of the whole community, combination of multiple approaches, time frame of at least 6 months, as well as training on gender equality and changing social norms.

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella stated that everyone has a right to health and life, but the impact of pregnancy on women's health, including loss of calcium, dental decay and at worst, maternal mortality are not sufficiently prioritized or prevented. She also mentioned the disruption to a girl's health from early marriages, sexual violence and social violence, and suggested finding solutions to stop military conflicts as one answer to preventing these forms of violence, often more prevalent in areas of political conflicts and wars.

The next speaker, Dr. Soon-Young Yoon, former chair of NGO CSW, spoke on how universal health care is an important social protection and financing for health, noting that 100 million people being pushed into poverty because of health expenditures is a human rights violation. She stressed that sexual violence continues to go unpunished in many areas of the world, another travesty and violation of women's human rights that must be addressed. In her conclusion, she warned that the current backlash against women's empowerment in the world, the shrinking space for civil society in the name of counter-terrorism and the underfinancing of United Nations form obstacles to universal health care and progress in women's rights.



Dr. Mohinder Watson, ICW Representative to United Nations in Geneva, enlightened the audience with a comprehensive report on types, causes and effects of violence against women, data on violence against women from several countries, impact of child marriages on health of the girl child, and examples of programs that lead to prevention of violence against women. She concluded by stressing the responsibility and power of women to bring change.

The last speaker Dr. Jun-hui Joo introduced data on cases of violence in Korea and how Korean government implemented policies to prevent violence against women. She also talked about the importance of legislation and gave examples of good practices from some countries such as New Zealand and Australia. She concluded that the most effective initiatives address underlying risk factors for violence, including social norms regarding gender roles and the acceptability of violence.



Project 5-O Board meeting and a seminar

On March 13, the Annual General Meeting and a seminar of Project 5-O were held in Ukraine Center. The meeting started promptly at 3:30PM and the board members agreed to support two projects, one from Madagascar for rural



women and the other from Nigeria for women's literacy, financial and economic empowerment. Jourdan Williams, the new Executive Director, was introduced at the meeting. Yinka Ajibade, the President of BPW of Nigeria, also came to speak about the Nigeria project with the board members. Afterwards, a seminar arranged by Project 5-O on "Agenda 2030: Addressing the Global Burden of Disease through Universal Health Coverage for Mental, Neurological and Substance-use."

Closing Day of UN CSW63

On March 22, the closing day of UN CSW63, government representatives and NGO leaders gathered to renew their commitment to improve women's access to social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure and transform their design and delivery to meet the demands and needs of vulnerable women. Based upon the understanding that social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructures are integral to achieving gender equality, BPA, and 2090 Agenda for Sustainable Development, various concrete measures to transform their design and delivery were adopted in the agreed conclusions.

The topics discussed in the agreed conclusions included but not limited to: Universal access to an old-age pension, quality health-care services, safe, sustainable, and affordable public transport, recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work burdened solely by women, and promoting full and equal participation and leadership of women in policy and decision making processes.

Overall, CSW 63 was a very worthwhile event to attend. In addition to learning more about the priority and review themes, the events and firsthand accounts by activists were interesting and informative, leading to a better understanding of programs, issues and situation in many countries around the world. It is also an opportune time for ICW sisters around the world to network and promote the ICW-CIF, as well as to meet old acquaintances and new friends.

*The report was written based on the reports of Linda Liu and Mohinder Watson



[<The UN CSW63 report by Elisabeth Newman>](#)



*Elisabeth Newman
ICW-CIF Ex-officio Board member*

This year's Commission is the largest so far attracting some 5,000 delegates representing a wide variety of NGOs so the first week was extremely busy but by Tuesday of the 2nd week there were, as usual, noticeably fewer delegates. Proceedings, with side events at the UN and the CSW/NGO Forum parallel events of the UN campus, were well under way when I arrived on day 2.

With the CSW themes and this definition in mind, ICW-CIF ran a very well attended and successful side and parallel events during the first week.

Many of the side and parallel events focused on some aspect of social protection, access to services and human rights. Apart from attending some of these I also sat in on part of the reporting of Governments to the Commission on their progress in overcoming violence against women in light of next year being Beijing +25 with a review of progress since the Beijing Platform of Action was adopted as a major step forward for women's rights.

The various Caucuses met twice each. The Asia Pacific Caucus is focusing on Beijing +25 though there is concern about the shrinking space for women-based NGOs and women's human rights in general, not just at the UN, but around the world.

Morning briefings were held from day 2 till the last Thursday. These briefings are most valuable for learning what is happening such as the progress of the Outcome document (Agreed Conclusions) and of issues of concern to the NGO/CSW. Delegates are able to ask questions/raise issues. The shrinking space for women was raised a number of times and a real effort is to be made to counteract this. The matter of the denial of visas by the US to would be participants to CSW is very concerning especially as the number has increased this year. A petition, asking for visas to be issued to all women who register to attend CSW, was taken to Washington. There is a treaty that allows entry to the US to all attending the UN but it is not always honoured; it is a grey area.

The Outcome document becomes the major topic of discussion during the second week when negotiations/lobbying are in earnest. Early on the Friday evening it was wondered if CSW63 would close without Agreed Conclusions but suddenly progress was made and all parties came to a consensus. We have Agreed Conclusions.

Next year marks Beijing 25+, the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women when the continued relevance of the Beijing Platform for Action will be examined. It is also the 10th anniversary of UN Women and the 20th anniversary of SCR 1325.

**Reported by Elisabeth Newman
Ex-officio member of the Board**

Reports from the UN Representatives

UN New York

"Advancing Women's Health and Well-Being Across the Life Course: Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), UHC and Mental Health"

For the past four years, ICW-CIF has organized an annual side event at the UNHQ as part of the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The events have focused on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and women's health and well-being. NCDs have been a major focus in our collaboration with WHO. NCDs comprise the five major global burdens of disease, and include cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, with mental health and neurological conditions having been included more recently, as the 5th major NCD. Depression is projected to be the number one burden of disease by 2030 according to WHO.



The March 2019 event at the UNHQ titled "Advancing Women's Health and Well-Being Across the Life Course: Focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), UHC and Mental Health" was spearheaded by UN Representatives, Dr. Elizabeth Carll in collaboration with Iryna Kurowyckyj on behalf of ICW-CIF with the participation of Ambassadors of the Permanent Missions of Jamaica and

Thailand, and the Executive Director of WHO Office in New York and other representatives. Each year, various NGOs, who have been supporters of the amelioration of NCDs and mental health, also co-sponsor the event including CCCUN, Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association International, and the Working Group on Global Mental Health and NCDs of the NGO CMH.

The event addressed the importance of the inclusion of the prevention and control of NCDs through the integration of physical and mental health services as part of universal health coverage (UHC) and focused on developments from the Caribbean, Thailand, India, and the U.S. The Ambassadors of Jamaica and Thailand participated as these member states are champions of addressing the major burdens of disease and supporters of UHC as a means of access to healthcare for all and leaving no one behind. The Deputy Executive Director of WHO gave an excellent update of WHO activities leading up to the upcoming September UNGA High Level Meeting on UHC. The Founder & CEO of Arogya World discussed the innovative program her organization developed and has been taking place to address health and well-being, especially diabetes, through the workplace of many companies in India. Unfortunately, the Director of Pediatric Behavioral Health Services of Montefiore Hospital and Medical Group was delayed in traffic in New York City and did not arrive in time for the event.



As a result, Dr. Carll, who was serving as the moderator of the event, spoke about the early intervention program at Montefiore and discussed the importance of early attention to children's physical and mental health, including early childhood adversities and the support of parents and the family to identify any early developmental issues. The event which was filled to capacity received excellent feedback and comments.

**Reported by Dr. Elizabeth Carll,
ICW-CIF Main Representative to UN New York**

[UN Geneva](#)

Attendance at CSW63, New York



My week-long visit to CSW 63 started with a wonderful welcome dinner hosted by Dr. Kim providing ICW members with an opportunity to meet, eat and network! During a parallel event 'Building social protection systems for the empowerment of women and girls in developing economies' we heard about some of the challenges facing Nigeria due to its ethnic diversity of 900 groups defined by territorial lands, the limited access to resources, conflict and

the involvement of multiple actors making it difficult to identify perpetrators of violence. Women and girls were often used as "spoils of war", abducted or forcefully married whilst others resorted to prostitution to survive.

Action being taken included rescuing and rehabilitating abducted girls, building a register of poor and vulnerable households to address poverty and providing schools and school feeding programs. Bank accounts were being introduced for women to prevent husbands from taking their cash. The lack of healthcare, employment opportunities and justice were also challenges.



In the Town Hall Meeting led by the UN Secretary General, issues raised included the UN's efforts to achieve gender parity and equality and its zero tolerance policy to sexual harassment, the push back against human rights defenders, the denial of visas to attend CSW, human trafficking including for organ harvesting and half widows. I was privileged to meet and present with Gertrude Mongella, the



Secretary General of the UN 4th Women's World Conference in Beijing and other distinguished speakers on an ICW panel on social protection, health and violence against women.



Mohinder Watson (left)

I was also able to discuss child marriage with HRH the Countess of Wessex at the Ambassador's reception at the UK Mission in New York, hosted by HE Karen Pierce. I also met with a vibrant group of young Catholic Fiat girls to share my teenage experiences of growing up in an Asian family and the pressure to enter an arranged marriage. I also spoke on a panel on birth registration.

Whilst it is impossible to capture my attendance at CSW 63 in a few words, including some of the inspirational people I met and what I learned, needless to say it was an enriching experience and I thank Dr Kim for the opportunity to attend and also to speak about the need for social protection and justice for victims of violence against women on an ICW panel. I look forward to CSW64 and Beijing +25 events.

Reported by Mohinder Watson,
ICW-CIF Main Representative to UN Geneva

UN Vienna

The 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and Ministerial segment 14 - 22 MARCH 2019, UN VIENNA



Eleonore Hauer-Rona
UN Vienna & UNIDO

This session chaired by Ambassador Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb Bakhet of Sudan brought a record participation of more than 2400 participants from member states, intergovernmental organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector and made clear that we cannot succeed without shared responsibility among all stakeholders. The session started with 2 young representatives from the Youth Forum held on 12-13 March speaking on the podium, followed by a speaker from the Scientific Network and the Chair

of the Vienna NGO Committee. That underlined the cooperation and shared responsibility of all stakeholders. During the Ministerial Segment a Ministerial Declaration based on the framework of the three conventions (1961, 1971 and 1999) was adopted (E/CN.7/2019/L.11). The Declaration was negotiated under the chairmanship of Ambassador Vivian Okeke of Nigeria. Member States committed "safeguarding our future and ensuring that no one affected by the world drug problem is left behind by enhancing our efforts to bridge the gaps in addressing persistent and emerging trends and challenges through the implementation of balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific-based responses to the world drug problem."



Eight resolutions were adopted. For us the most important are:

- Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV attributable to drug use among women and for women who are exposed to risk factors associated with drug use, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis
- Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy
- Advancing effective and innovative approaches, through national, regional and international action, to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs, particularly synthetic opioids
- Enhancing the capacity of Member States to adequately estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes
- A Decision was adopted on Changes in the scope of control of substances: proposed scheduling recommendations by the World Health Organization on cannabis and cannabis related substances



One of the 44 exhibits: Alternative Development Programme by the Government of Indonesia

The SDGs were present in all statements, discussions and papers. The INCB Director recalled the recommendations on gender issues in the INCB report 2016. I also want to reiterate here the ICW resolution on "Women and Drug Abuse" adopted in 2003 and the CND 2017 Side event by ICW and WIZO "Addiction and Gender". Listen first" is an UNODC Initiative stating: listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe. It concentrates on the SDGs 3, 5 and 16. www.unodc.org/listenfirst. Strong Families Programme

is a family skills prevention programme for families living in challenged settings. A statement by the New Zealand Drug Foundation focused on ensuring indigenous rights in drug policy.

Unbalanced drug policies and implementation of existing UNODC and WHO guidelines are of great concern to the IAHP (International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care). There are two opioid epidemics: "one of the lack of access to medical treatment resulting in excruciating pain and suffering; the other of non-medical use of opioids, resulting in overdoses and sometimes in deaths." Unbalanced policies create the epidemic of untreated pain, one of the most serious inequities in health care, resulting in extreme suffering in the cruel face of poverty. Countries with unbalanced drug policies will fail to achieve many goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs.

Informal Dialogues for the NGOs were held with the UNODC Executive Director, Yuri Fedotov, the INCB President Viroj Sumyai and with the CND Chair Mirghani Abbaker Altayeb BakhetAlso during the CND the Annual Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee was held. See www.vngoc.org.

**Reported by Eleonore Hauer-Rona,
ICW-CIF Main Representative to UN Vienna**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Annual International Women's Day event by UNIDO

The yearly event for the International Women's Day was held this time on 7 March 2019 organised by UNIDO and the other Vienna based UN agencies. The theme was "Men as Champions of Gender Equality" according to the General Theme "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change". International Gender Champions and heads of the Vienna based UN agencies were discussing, how men could play an active role in implementing the SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The event was a joint initiative of the Gender Focal Points of CTBTO, IAEA, UNIDO, UNODC/UNOV and the Focal Points for Women from UNODC/UNOV.

Matt Wallaert spoke on the topic: "How does achieving gender equality benefit men and women?" and about the micro-behaviours that hamper or promote gender equality in organizations. Wallaert is a renowned behavioural scientist.

The following Panellists contributed to the event:

- Yury Fedotov, Director-General of UNOV/Executive Director of UNODC
- Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO
- Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO
- Ambassador Brendon Charles Hammer, Permanent Representative of Australia
- Ambassador Alicia Guadalupe Buenrostro Massieu, Permanent Representative of Mexico



It was stressed that Gender Equality is not a women's issue and can't be achieved without active cooperation by men. That was also visible in the panel: this time men had to present their ideas for Gender equality (six men and one woman!). Just the opposite to what we are used to see at conferences namely only men or at least a majority of men on the podium while the subjects of the conferences are important for all of us, women and men.

It was with greatest joy that I could see my practice translated into action: to include always a man in the panels of NCW Austria's round tables on CEDAW and to ask them what they are doing in improving the situation of women in society.

The founder of NCW Austria, Marianne Hainisch, said: "Not against men, but together with men for the improvement of the status of women". Finally in our days the cooperation between women and men in achieving gender equality (SDG 5) seems to be better understood.

Reported by Eleonore Hauer-Rona,
ICW-CIF Representative to UNIDO



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO 2019-2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT

1- INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' DAY - "THE GIRLS' VOICE"

The International Girls'Day took place on 11 October 2018. Thanks to the testimonials we collected from worldwide girls (cf 2015-2019 Activities Report- July 2018), this event revealed how much girls suffer from all kinds of violence (rape, incest, forced marriage, early pregnancy, excision, unequal access to education etc.),whereas it appears that going to school is a priority for them, so as "to find their rightful place in society and become citizens aware of their responsibilities and rights". In order to transmit the very rich information which was collected, the working group developed a "Manifesto" which is preceded by a declaration of Mme Audrey Azoulay, Directeur General of UNESCO, about Education as the challenge of the century (encl). This why it was decided to follow up our reflection on Girls' life, with a focus on Education. So we now work on the celebration of the International Day of Education on 24 January 2020, which we subtitled"Girls'Voice".

2-FORUM ON SCIENCE

Organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in cooperation with UNESCO, the 10th International Forum of NGOS was held in Moscow on 26 and 27 November 2018, in partnership with the Russian Foundation for Peace and the Russian Academy of Sciences. This Forum addressed the theme "Science as a common good of humankind" and was structured around two parts: "Science in our minds" and "Science for our time", looking into various current issues including the contribution of science to peace and the evolution of artificial intelligence. The follow-up of this Forum was requested by the last December 2019 ICNGOS (International Conference of NGOs) and it should take into account new issues such as "Scientific Diplomacy".

3-EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP - PEACE EDUCATION

On its meeting in December 2018, the ICNGOs proposed several topics for future Forums, among which there was "Education for Global Citizenship-Peace education", according to ODD 2030 target 4.7. This Forum might take place in September 2020. Thanks to ONGS consultation, different aspects of this concept emerged, such as: a) define the broad outlines of what global citizenship is b)global citizenship and peace c)global citizenship, peace and solidarity d) young people, global citizenship and a new universal consciousness.

4- "CHALLENGING INEQUALITIES FOR A JUST AND PEACE SOCIETY"

The eleventh Forum of NGOS in official partnership with UNESCO will be held in Paris on 9 and 9 July 2019. A preparatory meeting was held on 17th April 2019. Possible thematic topics to be addressed by this Forum include: youth leadership and CSOs engagement, inequality based on discrimination and conflicts, economic growth and access to resources, technology versus humanity, inclusive and equitable quality education for all, gender inequalities.

Reported by ICW-CIF Representatives to UNESCO:
Francoise Bouteiller, Simonne Mirabel, and Lise Bedossa

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The 161st Session of the FAO Council



As ICW-CIF Representative to FAO, I was invited to attend the 161st Session of the Organization's Council which was held in Rome April 9-12, 2019. FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva in his opening address stressed that FAO will focus over the next two years on promoting nutrition-sensitive food systems and innovation in agriculture. Da Silva reported the outcomes of the mid-term 2019 period such as reducing costs, strong commitment to partners, areas allocation of money: innovation in agriculture and food system, and increase of female staff.

As a specialized United Nations Agency, FAO assists countries implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through five Strategic Objectives:

1. CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY & MALNUTRITION

Building Alliance for Food Security – In 2019, FAO moved towards greater engagements with parliamentarian alliances, fronts, and other UN Agencies to incorporate legislative powers in the fight against hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

2. MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

Pushing the boundaries of innovation - FAO supported 32 countries in the piloting and scaling up of a broad range of agricultural practices and innovations that are more productive and sustainable.

3. REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

Supporting poverty reduction in Latin America

4. ENABLE MORE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Setting the standards for inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems – The Organization provided scientific advice on setting food standards and enhancing the capacities of developing countries to participate effectively in International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex standard-setting processes.

5. INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES.

Reaching out where most needed – Results in terms of emergency preparedness met expectations with eight countries benefitting from FAO's support to uptake standards, guidelines and practices for emergency preparedness.

In June, the present FAO's Director General Dr. José Graziano Da Silva will complete his mandate.



Reported by Nanda Nobile,
ICW-CIF Representative to FAO



Reports from the Standing Committees

Report by ICW-CIF Arts and Letters Advisor



Jennifer Ann Davies
Arts and Letters Advisor

Working with the priority theme: '**Social Protection Systems**', writers, artists, songwriters, musicians, journalists and broadcasters support the **United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1325**, which targets peacebuilding, based on the mandated four basic pillars: **participation, protection, prevention; relief and recovery**. **Australian** writer, **Jackie French**, and illustrator, **Anne Spudvilas** have produced an exquisite book for young readers: "**When the War is Over**". The book moves through WW1, WW2, the **Pacific, Japan, Malaya, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Kasmir, Cyprus, Cambodia, Somalia, and Haiti**. Simplicity, truth, pain, loss and hope are the readers'! . Women in **Argentina** remain dedicated to ending human trafficking and modern slavery. Support by the collective Freedom United claims 200M people reached; 19M actions taken and 195 countries joined. www.freedomunited.org Even with new constitutional and federal changes, however, data demonstrates the critical need for women to be **informed**.

Azerbaijan still has an alarmingly low proportion of **the participation of women in media**, despite the 2019 Council of Europe starting a new gender equality project, in which **one** element is to include international organisations and give the floor to open-end discussions.

NCWA (Australia) offers a pdf in which it states: "Effective incorporation of gender perspectives in State programmes and projects...requires suitable mechanisms." Website for NCW Azerbaijan 'down' at time of researching and writing. Even given political party change, **under-representation of Cambodian women** remains a serious problem, with elected female commune officials, as one example, at just 20% and court prosecutors, just 23 in the country; 12% of the total. Reporters spoke to popular **Vartney Ganiva in Phnom Penh** and praised the song-writing duo of two sisters for their songs promoting women's strength and criticising patriarchal traditions. ozy.com/vartneyganiva

'**Across Women's Lives**' broadcast in **Greece**, reported on numerous women who have profoundly impacted communities and challenged the status quo! Technologist, **Kriti Sharma** challenges male-dominated technology with her gender-neutral robot, **PEGG!** Reports from PRI included impacts from and on Greece, Germany, Syria and Japan. www.pri.org

Prize-winning **ART** by **Israel's Lilian Klapisch**, depicts tension between concrete reality and abstract; thus every physical form has an abstract and symbolic meaning in her works. Light is vital to her art and viewers can see that the 'light through the window' changes the physical into more...Hedva Bachrach-NCW Israel. **Lilian's** art also takes us on a journey of personal and collective history, aligning with our current, vital themes, direction and ethos.

KEEPING INFORMED: "Women and Elections". This publication is a large, online one, published by the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender in the six official UN languages: English, French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic. The seven chapters are: - 1.General Overview/2. Legal Framework/3.Political Participation/4.Voter Registration/ 5. Voter & Civil Education/ 6. Election Administration/ 7. Election Observation. www.un.org/osagi"Pax" Latin for Peace – May Peace be with you.

Reported by Jennifer Ann Davies,
ICW-CIF Arts and Letters Advisor

Report by ICW-CIF Music Advisor



Left: Exhibition of paintings and concert of young artists and musicians

Right: MAWOMA: Johanna Malangre(right) and Eleonore Hauer-Rona (left)

For all those who did not get my circular I want to welcome all of you in the spheres of music! I am looking forward to your news on music for my reporting and for networking and I gladly will supply any further information or support you may require. So far I got fantastic reports from **NCW South Africa**, from our dear Heather Tracey, from Jennifer Davies **NCWQ Music Advisor (Australia)** and from Christine Knock, **NCW New Zealand**. They will be the basis of the next Triennial Report. Many thanks for your cooperation! We are proud that the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw), headed by a women, is taking first place in the QS World University Ranking 2019.

A few highlights of the last few months in the Club der Wiener Musikerinnen (Association of Women Musicians of Vienna), member organization of **NCW Austria**:

- an exhibition of paintings by children and young people under the leadership of Hiroko Ueba, presented together with a concert by children and parents.
- A lecture on 150 years Wiener Staatsoper (Vienna State Opera) by Dr. Georg Hauer
- A book launch "Vom Neandertal in die Philharmonie - Warum der Mensch ohne Musik nicht leben kann" (From Neanderthal to the Philharmonic Hall - Why mankind cannot live without music) with the author and Honorary Member of the Club der Wiener Musikerinnen, Univ. Prof. Dr. Eckart Altenmüller



- The presentation of a diploma "The journey to Aphasia, music therapy with people suffering from aphasia" by Mag. Elisabeth Weitzer with the Aphasia choir (a group of aphasia patients who had suffered stroke or craniocerebral trauma)
- A concert and presentation of a CD "Stars in the Sky"- Lullabies of the world with Rodica Vica, soprano, and Barbara Laister-Ebner, zither
- A piano recital by Ruth Spindler with works by women composers
- Concerts on the occasion of 150 years diplomatic relations between Japan and Austria

In total the club held 20 events with musicians from 9 countries since the ICW GA in Yogyakarta.

Finally we were attending the MAWOMA (Music And WOMen MAestra), the first global itinerant competition dedicated to female orchestra conductors. The programme is supported by the House Cartier. The first step of this worldwide contest - Europe - was held in the famous Wiener Sofiensaele on 11 April 2019. The Vienna Chamber Orchestra was under the direction of three gifted young women.

In the jury were two female conductors, leading people of the music world among them the director of the Vienna State Opera. The first price went to Johanna Malangré from Germany. We had very useful talks after the event. Ms Malangré will speak in our club when she is in Vienna again for a concert with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. The competition will take place on all 6 continents making stops in Vienna, Los Angeles, Johannesburg, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and Sydney. The grand finale will be held in late 2019 in Paris.

"Music is not about opposition. It is an invitation to bring people together. Music knows no gender".(Clémence Guerrand, Founding President of MAWOMA)

Reported by Eleonore Hauer-Rona,
ICW-CIF Music Advisor

VALUE OF SAFE WATER ICW-CIF Environment Advisor's report



Wendy Rainbird
Environment Advisor

Increasingly in the World, access to safe clean water, and decent sanitation are issues for women and girls. More floods and storms cause water to be contaminated, in other areas, longer dry seasons mean water scarcity, in coastal regions, sea-level rise and storms cause salty water moving into vital food growing areas.

In a letter through ICW to National Councils of Women around the World, I urged that women take an active role in decision-making about accessibility to safe water. I included

the Resolution that was passed at the ICW General Assembly that all National Councils act to:



1. Raise awareness in communities about the issues related to safe clean water;
2. Be involved as women in political decision-making at local, regional and national levels about access and availability to safe clean water;
3. Be involved in community planning as women experts about access and protection of safe clean water resources;
4. Be involved at all levels of decision-making in emergency, recovery and reconstruction processes to ensure that specific needs of women and girls to the availability of safe clean water are included in national and international plans, strategies and responses;
5. Ensure businesses are made responsible for the elimination of pollutants, in particular, with water contamination and supply.

At the ICW General Assembly in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in September 2018, Standing Committee coordinators discussed the ICW Plans of Action. For the Environment it states:

"To empower women to embrace the importance of environmental issues in relation to SDGs and to collaborate with and give support to those organisations and governments at local, regional and national levels working toward healthy ecosystems.

Suggested areas of work by the National Councils are to:-

- Promote the acceptance of the rights of women and girls and of their obligations to be equally represented in all decision-making processes in relation to the environment and relevant SDGs.
- Promote effective mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to climate change related issues, particularly focusing on how to keep women and girls safe when extreme weather events occur.
- Promote environmental conservation and sustainability.
- To promote and educate the community, particularly women and girls, to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster e.g.: storms/cyclones, floods, droughts heat-waves, and earthquakes."

What are the issues of access to and availability of safe water in your country?

In Australia, after millions of fish died in a major river, the Darling River in western New South Wales, I researched and reported to the National Council of Women Australia about a range of factors that led to such a terrible event. The river is in the huge Murray Darling Basin that is in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory is in part of it too. As a result of my research and report, a letter was sent to relevant ministers both the Federal Ministers, and their opposition ministers, and urged the National Councils in those States to take similar action.



In the letter, we asked for governments:

1. To adopt a formal charter of transparency in management roles for the vital Murray Darling Basin and to enforce regulations;
2. To create modern monitoring regimes with digital meters and automated gauging of river flows;
3. To avoid over-allocation of water and for governments to increase buy backs to promote greater efficiencies of water use by agriculture, and increase environmental flows;
4. To heed the scientific advice on environmental flows and restore the Sustainable River Audit as an independent scientific audit of river health.
5. To ensure that management and monitoring of water use is fair for all users, and include Aboriginal groups to help care for these vital rivers.

**Reported by Wendy Rainbird,
ICW-CIF Environment Advisor**

ICW-CIF Child and Family Advisor's report



*Sheila Pepper
Child and Family Advisor*

My recent research of many of our member countries indicates that most are trying in many ways to assuage the negative effects of poverty, war & climate change problems. The wider divide between rich & poor families in all countries is negatively affecting women & children the most. Many N.G.O.'s operate in most poorer countries & are continuing to improve families' well being.

In many African countries, the basic needs of clean water, food & shelter for poor families are not being met. Most countries undergoing wars, local conflicts & wider tribal disputes affect women & children the most, as their lives are frequently disrupted and their access to these basics are often changed or worsened. Poverty & violence against women & children are a constant threat in many of these countries & in some of those in Asia & South America.

Many migrant families flee these chronic disruptions & try to move north to Europe & North America, their health worsens, with the threats of more violence, illnesses & accidents. Often the men of the families go first, leaving the unprotected women & children to follow later. Rape is a common occurrence for women & children on the way & in camps. As they try to claim refugee status in more settled countries, women & children may be stopped from following family members gone ahead. They often find colder & less hospitable countries, with less easily acquired & different food on which to survive. Education, work & land ownership, of course, are disrupted, & little can be achieved until they are better & more permanently settled in new countries or returned to their own when conflicts cease. Overcrowded refugee camps cause further hardships.



The N.G.O.'s working in Africa, Asia & South America in particular, are trying to improve the immigrants' home situations, to prevent massive migration to other countries. The most important has been the establishment of clean, safe, stable water sources. In North America, we are trying to improve our urban, rural & northern aborigines' living situations, but not well enough nor fast enough. Better, secure water sources, safe warm & less crowded housing & more health services are the more critical improvements needed. Our overcrowded urban communities have problems too, as so many want to live close to their ethnic groups.

The CSW63 meetings in N.Y.C. at the United Nations last month had many more motions & recommendations you will see in their reports. These will hopefully help women & children survive more easily in their own, more peaceful countries, or in their transitions to better conditions on other countries. More usually mobile families around the world, with herds, fare better than those with crops when they had to abandon homes.

Many migrant women & children must learn to survive for long periods in countries where they've applied for refugee status, through long application processes, to finally live normally in strange surroundings, but settled communities to find work & education opportunities. All of our families did so through many decades & centuries past, but this newer wave seems to have many more difficulties & rules to follow. These newer migrants also face the frustration of those who have been on immigrant waiting lists for many months, but urgent refugees have priority, as they come from more dangerous situations. Women & children are often disadvantaged if they don't have older family caregivers living with them, so mothers can find work. Many northern European, Asian & some North American countries need more immigrants to do most menial jobs that immigrants have traditionally done, to begin living in a new country & to learn the language & customs. The demographics have changed & many people are living longer, child work laws have changed & thus more young families will be needed in these countries. Undercover slavery & trafficking affect families world wide, as they try to survive in different states, provinces & countries.

Reported by Sheila Pepper,
ICW-CIF Child and Family Advisor



Reports from the Member Councils (NCWs)

National Council of Australia



As President of National Council of Women Australia (NCWA) I was delighted to be one of two non-government delegates included in the Australian Government delegation attending CSW63 in New York. CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment

of women. The theme for CSW63 was social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

During the two weeks I represented Australia at a number of side and parallel events including events held at Macquarie Bank, QBE, the Australian Mission and the New Zealand and UK Mission. I also attended a MCC Property Industry Roundtable hosted by EY and the NGO CSW Consultation Day held off site at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in Manhattan.



I was invited to be a panel member at a side event hosted by the UK- "How does Civil Society get the most out of CSW"- panelists were Charles Ramsden Government Equalities Office UK, Zarin Hainsworth CSW Alliance, Eleanor Hillier NAWO youth delegate (UK) Rachel Livingston Office for Women and myself held in the UN main building.



Robyn Nolan (right)

Australia hosted a number of side events including "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace-A Global Perspective" and a side event with the UK and Chile -"Driving Change through Data". A Male Champions of Change side event- "Men's Role in Gender Equality" -Elizabeth Broderick and Australian CEOs was also held hosted by QBE.

Unfortunately not all countries participated or were represented in the room during the seven days of negotiations for the "Agreed Conclusions" or attended the meeting held after negotiations concluded to accept the text of "Agreed Conclusions" and deliver country statements.

The NCWA Executive was invited to Morning Tea by Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove recently. The morning Tea was held for Lady Cosgrove's patronage organisations at Government House in Canberra. It was a most enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to thank Lady Cosgrove for her time as Patron of NCWA as she is standing down in June 2019.

NCWA continues to work tirelessly on a range of important issues affecting women and their families and continues to make submissions to a number of important inquiries conducted by the Australian Government. Priority areas of concern continue to be the prevention of family and domestic violence and economic security for women, especially empowerment of older women.

Reported by Robyn Nolan,
President of NCW Australia

National Council of Austria



The presentation of the documentation of our exhibition "100 years women's voting rights" took place exactly 100 years after the first elections in 1919, on 16 February. The event was well attended. The exhibition attracted visitors from Austria and from abroad. In the meantime some other organisations followed our example, and during the next days an event on this topic will be held in the Parliament with the Federal Minister for Women, the Family and Youth, Dr. Juliane Bogner-Strauss.

A TV documentation on the book launch of Rosa Mayreder's (1959-1939) "Aschmedai's Sonette" re-edited by the edition libica attracted new people interested in the famous women of the early NCW Austria. For autumn 2019 another book will be produced on Adelheid Popp, also a leading figure of the Austrian Women's movement in the beginning of the 20th century. Another

TV film series "Baumeister der Republik" (Builder of the republic / 100 years Republic of Austria) was produced by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF III. One part presented Michael and Marianne Hainisch, Marianne the founder of NCW Austria and Michael, her son, the first elected president of the young republic of Austria.

I was interviewed and the NCW was visible once more by this film. As a follow-up of all these documentations on historic women we are now dealing with a number of enquiries by students from several countries on the history of our organisation.



From left to right: Emmy Galama,
Councilor Kathrin Gaal, and Eleonore

On the occasion of the UNECE Conference "Housing For All" Emmy Galama, ICW Representative to Habitat, was in Vienna. I had the pleasure to accompany her during the highly interesting conference and she was kind enough to give a presentation on her work with Habitat and on the ICW GA in Indonesia. In the beginning of April, Mohinder Watson, ICW Representative to the UN in Geneva, was speaking on "Child Marriage in the Middle East – What drives it and



How can we address it" at an international conference "Child Marriage and Temporary Marriage" at the Sigmund Freud Private University in Vienna giving me the chance to meet with her.

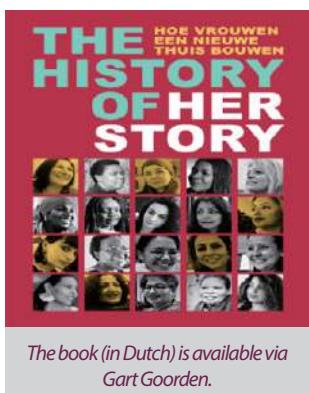
We are happy to welcome a new NCW Austria member organization: "Age Company", a group of women 50+ (and a few men) performing contemporary dance. They are quite active, organizing workshops, and for the IDOP 2019 kind of a festival.

**Reported by Eleonore Hauer-Rona,
President of NCW Austria**

Dutch Speaking Council of Women of Belgium (NVR)

The history of her story

The Dutch speaking Council of Women of Belgium is proud to present 'the history of her story'. A book and movie about the stories of twenty women who arrived as refugees in Belgium and had to build a new life for themselves and their family – including the director of the movie.



*The book (in Dutch) is available via
Gart Goorden.*

Women from Afghanistan, Burundi, Chechnya, Chili, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Iraq, Iran, Russia, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Zimbabwe. Women who arrived in Belgium 25 years ago, or just 1 year ago. Women in their twenties or in their sixties. Mothers, single women, students, working women and volunteers. Twenty different women with one thing in common: they all have a positive story to share about how they build a new home for themselves. That does not mean their stories are easy – they all had to overcome obstacles. To flee your home country is to leave behind friends, family, jobs and anything you took for granted in your life.

The search for a new home is the search for a place where you feel safe.

The book and the movie both offer an unique opportunity to help transform the discriminations and negative stereotypes concerning refugees into a positive breeding ground for support for refugees in society, to help them feel welcome. Only when newcomers are treated with respect and equality they can fully integrate in their new home country.

**Reported by Carlien Coppieters,
Dutch Speaking Council of Women in Belgium (NVR)**

National Council of Canada



During the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (UNCSW63) it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful evening with ICW members. Joining me were NCWC members, Daniel Chivu and Trish Masnuik, who were elected as Canadian representatives to the core group of the Europe/North American Caucus of Women, UN-NGO.

At the April meeting of the Montreal Council of Women (MCW) guest speaker Maylissa Luby, a social worker for La Sortie, discussed the sex industry and trafficking in Canada. She has been instrumental in the opening of the first safe house in the Montreal area for former sex workers; here they can feel secure and receive counselling.

The speaker was arranged by MCW 1st Vice President Penny Rankin who has a long-standing interest in the welfare of women engaged in sex trafficking.

Penny was one of our 20 delegate at the UNCSW63, which included a number of university student NCWC members. She was much appreciative of the opportunity to exchange ideas and garner new ideas on dealing with sex trafficking and rehabilitation of sex workers in different parts of the world.



Sandra Cohen-Rose (right)

Since George Wright died on the Titanic in April 1912 the Local Council of Women of Halifax has been working out of the 1903 Mansion George Wright. Recently to make the house more of a hub for the community they converted the top two floors to affordable offices available for small businesses and non-profits to rent and made the third floor available for meetings or workshops. They also give tours of the house.

Two years ago, I was elected NCWC President to encourage a working Board and instigate change. I am proud of our common program, initiated in my presidency, Eliminating Poverty through Life Skills Education and Women's Empowerment, and our achievements, particularly in the area of communication. My mandate as NCWC President ends at the June AGM in Winnipeg. I will be staying on the Board as Past President and in this capacity I hope to see many of my proposed ideas adopted by the new board.

Our AGM promises a record attendance when the Council of Women of Winnipeg (CWW), celebrates its 125th Anniversary. The CWW and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba will be hosting the AGM.

**Reported by Sandra Cohen-Rose,
President of NCW Canada**



Indonesian Women's Congress (KOWANI)



Giwo Rubianto, Chairman of Kowani and her team attended the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), that took place in the UN headquarter, March 11-22 2019 with the theme : "Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls"; and the specific theme: "The Empowerments of Women and Their Relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

Considering the role and responsibility of Indonesian women as MOTHER OF THE NATION (Ibu Bangsa), which foster the future generations, building the character and mentality, maintaining the morale of families and communities, maintaining the natural environment, playing an active role in moving the family economy, women must be able to think "out of the box ", innovative, creative and smart as smart women can be agents of change. For several countries in the world including Indonesia, gender equality is still something that must be fought for. Many actions need to be done and to be improved. We can work together to achieve the stated goals. Let's unite in making the dream come true and to ensure "No Woman and Girl Left Behind".

<KOWANI FAIR 2019>



KOWANI as an umbrella for organizations facilitates, supports and gives strengthening interests for its organization members. One of KOWANI's real contributions is that during the past 19 years KOWANI has held "KOWANI FAIR" event in promoting creative industry and creating communication lines between producers, sellers and buyers to make transactions. This event is to strengthen entrepreneurial networks

among the entrepreneurs who will support each other in the national market and towards globalization. At the same time as a media campaign in the effort to develop Global market network. We hope that the role of women in developing micro business become better and answers the needs of the community in building an independent, integrated and sustainable economy towards mutual prosperity.

"KOWANI FAIR 2019" was held on 4-7 April 2019 at SME TOWER Building Jakarta with the theme "With the Spirit of Mother of the Nation Kowani Prepares the Generation of Industrial Community 4.0". Varied events and competitions were held.



Amongst them are Fashion Shows and competitions "Bake-a-cake using Rose Brand flour", "Line Dance Tobelo Rhythm", "2 Generation Hijabi Creation for Muslim Wear" and "1000 outstanding orphaned and disabled children".

Reported by DR. Ir. Giwo Rubianto Wiyogo,
Chairman of KOWANI

All Pakistan Women Association (APWA)

<APWA @ BBC The Conversation>

Recently Farah Mehboob, the Secretary of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs, APWA was at BBC The Conversation where an interactive discussion on gender issues brought up a very serious finding that women's harassment is prevalent on the internet due to the lack of technical knowledge and training. Women are not trained about the clear understanding of benefits and dangers of the internet, how to maximize benefits and minimize dangers.



With Stephen Valen, Cultural Affairs Officer of the U.S. Consulate General Karachi.



<APWA@WoB (Women on Board)>

Women on Board is a talk series conducted monthly by WoB to educate women on policy making as the board of director of various companies. Ms. Mehboob and Ms. Cleventina Burridge attended the meeting on 25th January 2019 at Pearl Continental, Karachi.

<APWA @ SPDC (Social Policy Development Center)>

Ms. Mehboob has been attending the seminars on various social issues arranged by the Social Policy Development Center in Karachi, Pakistan for networking actively with female rights activists. SPDC is actively involved in conducting research to promote gender equality and Ms. Mehboob attends the related seminars at SPDC Karachi to analyze this knowledge gap.

<APWA@GNMI (Global Neighborhood for Media Innovation)>

On 12th April, Ms. Mehboob attended a one-day educational session on Credibility, Risk and the Legislative Significance of #MeToo. The session was arranged by GNMI with the support of US Embassy at Marriot Hotel Karachi.



Reported by Farah Mehboob,
UN Affairs Standing Committee, APWA



Consiglio Nazionale Donne Italiane (CNDI)

The International Women's Day celebration at "Quirinale"



On March 9th, 2019 at the Quirinale Palace in Rome , the International women's Day has been solemnly celebrated. This year the theme was "Never again slaves". The ceremony, was open by a movie focusing on the hateful subject of the Trafficking of human beings, and was followed by the witnesses of two girls who were victims of that awful phenomenon.

President Sergio Mattarella, in the presence of the highest governmental, institutional, cultural authorities and civil society delegates - including CNDI

president Daniela Monaco- welcomed all women attending his speech and called them "Precious and essential characters in the framework of the future we are waiting for." Then President Mattarella recalled that an important step leading to women's liberation was due to the law that abolished the exploitation of prostitution. This law was introduced on 1959 by a bright woman: Senator Lina Merlin. "We must: fight all forms of exploitation and violence towards women, in any social life sector". The President said, then remained that the contribution given by women to the growth of our country was immense, but that still subsisting disparities are equally penalizing our women and our society. Therefore it is our constant task to remove the obstacles that limit freedom and equality, preventing the full development of each human being.

**Reported by Annamaria Castelfranchi,
Consiglio Nazionale Donne Italiane (CNDI)**

Council of Women's Organization in Israel (CWOI)

CWOI is pleased to submit its periodical report on the main activities and events which have been undertaken during the last months by its affiliate members. First of all, it should be mentioned that in December 2019 CWOI leadership moved from Naamat to Emunah, another leading Israeli women organization. The new President of CWOI is Oshrit Setbon. The Hebrew word Emunah implies "faithfulness, fidelity, not walking away even when the going gets tough, trusting the other and honoring the other's trust in us".



From left to right: Oshrit Setbon, CWOI President), Dr. Webbit Mangisto, Aviva Kohlmann (VP of CWOI), and Liora Minka(EMUNAH President)

That is what in essence Emunah provides, each and every day, for thousands of disadvantaged children and families across the country through its network of residential homes, high schools, day care centers and therapy and counselling centres. It also provides adult education programs and promotes the advancement of the status of women. Recently, moreover, Emunah decided to grant the award of the "Women of the Year" to Dr. Webbit Mangisto, an outstanding specialist from the field of education, from Ethiopian origin.



Demonstration of Women Wage Peace

On its part, the grassroots movement Women Wage Peace (WWP) held, last November, a very successful International Congress with the participation of some 1000 women and students from all universities in Israel. The target audience of the congress was the young generation – our future leaders. Israeli and International experts, Knesset members and public figures took part in its very interesting panels and workshops

where special emphasis was put on cutting edge and creative methodologies to encourage the active participation and activism of young adults. WWP members have notably proven track records in the areas of human rights, peace and security, calling on all political parties to commit to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

WWP also held a march and rally to mark International Women's Day, with the slogan." Before everything, a peaceful solution is needed– only a political agreement will bring security". On the occasion of International Women's Day, several events have been initiated by all women's organizations throughout the country to raise more and more awareness about women's rights, economic and political empowerment, support frameworks and elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Furthermore, towards the recent national legislative elections, women's organizations in Israel met several heads of political parties to remind them to include women in their candidates' lists to the Knesset (Parliament) and to ensure gender equality in all spheres of the public life. Then after the elections in early April, the Israeli Women Network decided to act as a "watchdog" in order to make sure that women are included in the political teams in charge of building the new governmental coalition, taking into consideration social justice and gender equality. To sum up, affiliate and associate members of CWOI remain voluntary involved in a wide range of nationwide social projects for the benefit of people in need – youngsters at risk, vulnerable young and elderly women, new immigrants, as well as educational activities for children staying in residential homes and shelters for battered women.

Mazal Renford, our ICW Advisor for International Relations & Peace, was part of the ICW delegation to UN CSW63 and was one of the speakers at the ICW-CIF Side-event on the topic of "Social Protection for Women's Empowerment", as well as acting as panelist in parallel events organized by the Union of Women in France and other partners - all of which provided the opportunity to explore and define how social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure can foster gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Building on this energy and summing-up, we reflect on the good practices, challenges and opportunities shared at CSW63 and are looking forward to the milestone year of 2020.

Reported by Mazal Renford (ICW-CIF Advisor for International Relations and Peace)
and Aviva Kohlman (Vice President of CWOI)



National Council of Women of Luxembourg(CNFL)

<CNFL in the media>

The National Council of Women in Luxembourg was very active and present in all the media. 6 press releases were issued to political and social issues and CNFL representatives gave 12 interviews.

<Main activities>

2019 was a national election year. CNFL launched a campaign calling for parity and conducted "Observatoire de la participation des femmes aux élections," a study on the candidates and the results of the elections on national, local, and European level existing since 1999.



Together with Zonta International, CNFL organized a second national Orange Week from November 15 to December 9. 19 events took place during this period. About 600 persons joined the solidarity march on November 24.

On March 9, a flash mob was organized. Together with around 20 associations, CNFL organized the 5th "Feminist and Cultural Day" in Luxembourg on March 10 to celebrate the International Day of Women's Rights. Conferences, workshops, and performances were organized during the whole day. A lot of people attended the events. The focus was put on the European elections.

This year, UN CSW63 was held from 11 to 22 March 2019, focused on social protection and sustainable infrastructure that can support gender equality and empower women and girls. Joëlle Letsch represented the Luxembourg Soroptimists and the International Women's Council and participated in several plenary sessions and side-events from 13 to 19 March.



*From left to right: Joëlle Letsch, Dr. Jungsook Kim, and Florence Fischer
(Zonta Luxembourg)*

During the 2 weeks, high-level round tables were organized to discuss the issues and examine good practices. Especially the side-events were successful as the NGO representatives spoke of the real difficulties, with figures in support, but also bringing ideas and solutions. One conclusion was that gender equality is a prerequisite for advancing development and reducing poverty. Access to infrastructure, technology, but also justice is needed to empower women and girls. Access to health care is paramount and preventing gender-based violence must be a top priority.

**Reported by Joelle Letsche and Ana Raskin,
National Council of Women in Luxembourg(CNFL)**

National Council of Women of Nigeria (NCWS Nigeria)

The first quarter of the year for NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN SOCIETIES (NCWS) NIGERIA as expected began on high peach being electioneering year. Myriads of events greeted the first month of the year 2019, beginning with FOOD BANK an organization whose main goal is to ensure food security nationwide.



Several other organizations namely United Nations Women, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Orientation Agency (NOA), Nigerian Police Service Commission, Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace and some of NCWS affiliates also held voters education, National security and role of Interfaith organizations, Security, and issues relating to promoting peaceful elections, mitigating violence against women in elections were

some of the topics of programs held in preparation for the 2019 general elections. Worthy of note is the visit to the national office of NCWS by the European Union long Observers who came in and held interviews with me on effective observation of the 2019 electoral processes by the National Council for Women Societies.

NCWS observers on duty nationwide

The office of the Vice President, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Federal Ministry of Finance held Bi-lateral Green Imperative between Nigeria and Brazil where NCWS was invited as part of the stakeholders. Pro Bono, Gynecological Consultation for NCWS women by Prof. Anthony Bamigboye and series of events greeted the first quarter of the year.

NCWS Women with the Consultant

MITIGATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ELECTIONS

The programme was held by INEC Nigeria, having in attendance several Civil Society Organizations and Development Agencies at the seminar. The National President Dr. Mrs Gloria Laraba Shoda mni received the invitation and was accompanied by Comrade Sophia, the PRO.



The roundup of all events for this first quarter is the just concluded CSW 63rd session (2019) at New York USA with the theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The ICW President and members were prominent in the ECOSOC Programmes and the President also took good care of ICW sisters, to this we express our profound appreciation. The

National Council for Women Societies (NCWS) Nigeria hereby joins other Women Councils of the world to pledge



full commitment and support to regional and international agreements and conventions ratified by Member states in the 63rd Session of the UN CSW.

**Reported by Dr. Gloria Laraba Shoda mni,
President of NCWS Nigeria**

National Council of Women of Thailand(NCWT)

<NCWT celebrates International Women's Day>



The National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT) under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, organized the International Women's

Day on 09 March 2019 with the seminar theme "Honour Outstanding Women in regards to Women and Family Development."

Dr. Wandee Khunchornakong Juljarern - NCWT President invited distinguished speakers such as the Permanent-Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Permanent-Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Secretary-General of the Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission in a panel discussion on "Social Protection and Sustainable Development System." A large number of participants from NCWT women organisations network across Thailand enthusiastically attended the event.

<NCWT participated in the UN CSW 63 in New York>

Mrs. Lalivarn Kanchanachari – Head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mrs. Sirirat Tamrongterakul – Deputy Head and Mrs. Chularat Israngkun of the Foreign Affairs Committee were representing NCWT at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women : CSW 62 in New York, USA with the delegation of the Ministry of Thailand. Among the many interesting sessions was Thailand's side event which the Thai Minister of Social Development and Human Security gave an address on "Women's Access to Technologies and Media: Empowering rural women in the ASEAN region," demonstrating the Thai government's drive forward Thailand 4.0 as the national agenda.



<NCWT Shined at the 2019 Women's Sport Festival in Macau>



NCWT delegation consisting of 12 Committee Members participated in the Women's Sport Festival in Macau. The Thai delegation was welcomed by Mrs. Lam Yun Mui President of the Macau Women Association. Their performance of the folk dance from Isan-northeastern Thailand on stage received much praise and award. The festival featured

seminar on innovation in senior women healthcare, with emphasis on good nutrition and exercise.

**Reported by Dr. Wandee Khunchornayakong Juljarern,
President of National Council of Women of Thailand**

National Council of Turkish Women (NCTW)



On October 3, 2018 President Cosima Schenk gave a conference in Ankara, on "Women's Rights in Turkey and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk "The listeners, impressed by her statement, Cosima Schenk as a foreign policy analyst analyzed Atatürk remarkably and was applauded with appreciation. October 9, Rize Branch opening was held. On October 11, 2018, ECICW President and NCTW members went to neighbouring country, Georgia. We visited the handicapped children center and the nursery. We met deputy, head of the legal commission of Adjara Autonomous Region, Mrs

Nina Ckhetiva MP, in Batumi.

On October 12, 2018, we met the Association of "Business Women of Acara" at the trade chamber of Acara. President said that they wanted to have closer relations with Turkey and NCTW. ABWA mainly stressed on families with impaired socio-economic status, training in dairy production, therapy for children with psychological problems, conducting adaptation studies for transition to a free market economy. After Batumi, we met the members of the Georgian Turkish Business Association and IWA (International Women's Association).



NCTW members with the Ambassador Mrs. F.Ceren Yazgan at Georgia



The President Celal Sancar elaborated on various social projects of GURTİAD such as projects on breast cancer awareness, some programs for mothers and children, and others for disabled children and children with psychological problems. The association is providing them Turkish Language courses. For fund raising, NCTW Branches agreed to send Georgia handicrafts from Turkey for GURTİAD and IWA.

The women ambassador of Turkey Fatma Ceren Yazgan, invited us to the Embassy. Cosima Schenk spoke about targets, objectives ECICW CECIF and she said how happy she was to see a female ambassador NCTW is proud of her, she is one of those who achieved to break the glass ceiling. There are 37 women ambassadors in Turkey.

On 14 November 2018 The Conference on Voting Rights was given by Canan GÜLLÜ, The President of Federation of Women's Associations. December 5th 2018 - NCTW paid a visit to mausoleum of M.K. Atatürk who gave the fundamental rights to women in December 5th 1934. On 24 January 2018, as the board of NCTW we visited the former Minister of State and Consultant of the President Güldal Akşit to announce her 60th anniversary of the NCTW. We thanked her for all her collaborations.

On February 19, 2019, Grand National Assembly established a commission called Equal Opportunities Commission "KEFEK" in 2009. NCTW paid a visit to Mrs. Canan Kalsin MP the new President of KEFEK Commission. President Fatma Fatoş İnal introduced the historical background of NCTW briefed her about the recent projects. Commission had established 2 sub-committees in the assembly. Committees developed a programme in the fields of science engineering technology and industry for young people. The commission stressed on follow up and the improvement of Istanbul Convention of COE. Turkey is the first country which ratified this convention.

**Reported by Fatma Fatoş İnal,
President of NCTW / Vice President of ICW-CIF**

Women's Union of Russia (WUR)

The Commission met in the UN Headquarters in New York (USA) from 11 to 22 March, 2019. WUR traditionally takes part in the UN CSW meetings and submits proposals and recommendations towards achieving gender equality worldwide. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General that women's participation in global politics and humanitarian activities allows achieving sustainable peace, while equal opportunities for women and men in the labor market contribute to the growth of national economies.

UN Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council. The Commission evaluates the implementation of international standards in the sphere of protection and promotion of women's rights, and develops proposals for their proper implementation. The Women's Union of Russia traditionally takes part in the meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and submits proposals and recommendations towards achieving gender equality worldwide.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, addressed participants at the plenary meeting. He noted in his presentation that women's participation in global politics and humanitarian activities allows achieving

sustainable peace, while equal opportunities for women and men in the labor market contribute to the growth of national economies.

Key topics of the 63d session of UN Commission were improvement of national social security systems, broader access of women and girls to public services and sustainable infrastructure. In addition, UN CSW experts assessed the implementation of recommendations to promote sustainable development and expansion of women's rights and opportunities. Official meetings and several expert and educational events were held in order to share best practices of protecting women's interests worldwide.

Besides participating in the main program, Victoria Panova presented the stance of the WUR at ICW events, addressing expanded access to public services and advancement of women's rights and opportunities. At workshops, experts determined major obstacles to women's access to social infrastructure and developed a number of recommendations towards adoption of national social protection programs in the interests of women.

Being part of the RF delegation to the "Women's Group of G20 (Women's Twenty)", Victoria Panova also attended the panel discussion held by the Government of Japan – the host economy of the 2019 summit. The primary goal of this event was review of the outcomes of implementation of the recommendations of the Group G 20 and their impact on the status of women worldwide.

Reported by Victoria Panova,
Chair of the Primorye chapter, WUR

National Council of Women in Malta

TALKING SCIENCE AWARD



The National Council of Women Malta celebrated the achievement of the introduction of the sessions 'Talking Science' for pre - schoolers and toddlers accompanied by their parents, grandparents and carers on Commonwealth Day, 11 March 2019.

These sessions were held during the summers of 2017 and 2018 and were possible through the collaboration of the Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME), the Commonwealth Women's Network (CWN) and the National Council of Women in Malta (NCW Malta).

NCW's focus on science serves the communities and drive progress to have more interest in science, which is lacking especially among the female generation.



The Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators (CASTME) awarded NCW Malta the Findel CASTME prize as they recognized the work done was of great importance in raising awareness on everyday science.

Dr Lady Sue Dale Tunnicliffe, Chair of CASTME, the Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators, and Kathleen Nugent, Vice Chair of CASTME, came to Malta for the award ceremony. CASTME invited Mrs Michelle Muscat, spouse of the Prime Minister of Malta, to present the award.

With the help of this award NCW can scale up this venture and increase the impact in the interest of science.

Lady Tunnicliffe spoke about the CASTME Early Years project, which shows that Science is in play and in everyday life.

Ms Nadyanne Mangion, who led the sessions in 2017, and Dr Daniela Cassola, who led the sessions in 2018, described how much children and adults enjoyed doing the everyday science activities together and talking about science. "Science is Fun."

NCW Malta will be organizing two more sessions during 2019 summer months.

**Reported by Doris Bingley,
Vice President of ICW-CIF**

Upcoming Events

◆ European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) General Assembly

- Date: May 19 - 23, 2019
- Venue: Kiev/Chernihiv, Ukraine

◆ Asia Pacific Regional Council (APRC) General Assembly

- Date: November 9-12, 2019
- Venue: Pune, India

◆ Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) 2020

- Date: May 13 - 16, 2020
- Venue: Avignon, France

International Council of Women is the first truly global women's NGO which was founded in 1888 for the advancement of women all over the world. For the past 130 years, the International Council of Women has remained an active pioneer in promoting international women's rights. ICW-CIF was there when the United Nations was formed to make sure the United Nations Charter included women's equal rights and the Commission on the Status of Women be established. It was there when the International Women's Year was proclaimed in 1975. It has been there through the United Nations Decade for Women and Beijing +20. It will continue to remain an active pioneer and a leader in representing women's voice and promoting international women's rights.

*Join International Council of Women,
and join us in changing
women's lives for the better
everywhere in the world!*



Add.: #1910, Korea Business Center, 309, Gangnam-daero, Seocho-Gu, Seoul, 06628, Korea

Tel: +82 2 3454 2002 Fax: +82 2 3474 6193 Website: www.icw-cif.com

Email: icw.jskim@gmail.com, icw.secretariat@gmail.com

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