

# ICW-CIF

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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. +82-2-3474-2002 Fax. +82-2-3474-6193 Website. [www.icw-cif.com](http://www.icw-cif.com)  
Email. [icw.jskim@gmail.com](mailto:icw.jskim@gmail.com), [icw.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:icw.secretariat@gmail.com)

## New Year Greetings



Dear ICW sisters and friends, Happy New Year!

May the New Year be one of good health, joy, and satisfaction for each of you. I am entirely grateful for your continuous support toward the goal of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in these difficult times.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) will take place in a hybrid format from 14 to 25 March this year. ICW is now organizing a virtual parallel event on March 17 (8:00 AM EST) with the theme of Economic women's empowerment in the changing world of work. I hope that many of ICW sisters and friends will be attending our virtual event.

In spite of lots of COVID-19 uncertainties, NCW France and ICW Boards are working diligently to ensure great success for the ICW General Assembly in May, Avignon France. Please come and enjoy the charm of the France and join us with the important work of ICW.

Looking forward to meeting all of you in May in Avignon.

**Jungsook Kim (Ed.D), President of ICW**



.....  
Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2022 to all our ICW sisters. Hope the New Year will bring a significant breakthrough in our fight to overcome the COVID pandemic, which has not only disrupted our lives but has set back previous steps towards gender equality and women's empowerment in many parts of the world.

I would like to send my best wishes for success to all the affiliates of the International Council of Women in your work to empower women, to advance gender equality and to improve the livelihood of women and girls so as to accelerate progress towards sustainable development of the world.

**Linda Liu, ICW Vice President**



.....  
May this festive season bring you a new inspiration as well as joy, prosperity and good health. May 2022 be free from the challenges of the pandemic and let it be a year free from anxiety so all the ICW's commitments to Social Justice, Peace and Security and Gender Equality be realized.

**Doris Bingley, ICW Vice President**



“As a woman my country is the whole world” - Virginia Woolf.

Yes, Mrs. Woolf, “We are the women without borders”

On the road of social gender equality, ICW has accomplished many tasks to reach their goals with determination. I am proud of serving as the vice president of ICW. Hope 2022 will give us a chance to reinvigorate our enthusiasm for chasing goals and dreams. Cheers to another year all together.

**Fatos F. Inal, ICW Vice President**



May 2022 bring the end of the pandemic and the end of inequalities around the world. I wish all my sisters in ICW the best of luck, happiness and success, and all women and girls of the world freedom, empowerment, and progress in their struggle for their rights.

**Jamal Hermes Ghibril, ICW Vice President**



New Year has come again. I hope that the year 2022 bring joy, prosperity, and health to all. May ICW reach new heights in the New Year in empowering women all around the world.

**Giwo Wiyogo Rubianto, ICW Vice President**



In wishing ICW-CIF members and friends a peaceful and fruitful year, may all that you undertake give you joy. May 2022 bring greater stability in the world with an ending of the corona virus crisis, great progress to attaining gender equality, the ending of violence and improved general well-being for all, particularly for women and girls, and, above all, lasting peace. Thanks to all who have supported the Standing Committees; I look forward to continued collaboration with you.

**Elisabeth Newman, ICW Board Member**



I wish all my friends and women around the world a happy new year 2022;  
Year Full of hope and challenge for women. Let us join hands in friendship and mutual aid. Let us build together the future of young women.

**Martine Marandel, ICW Board Member & Treasurer**



Over the past six years in the ICW Board, I have had the opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing women around the World and team up with the leading women who are working to give voice to women everywhere whose words go unheard and to create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity. Thank you All very much and have a happy, healthy, prosperous, and peaceful 2022.

**Nebiye Isin Atala, ICW Board Member**



May the year 2022 symbolize a fresh start to keep moving forward in a positive, healthy way. Let each one develops resilience, a capacity to take their life towards happiness and maximize the myriad possibilities which come their way.

**Pushpa Hegde, ICW Board Member**



After these two difficult years, we want to move forward and believe in the future. Our combined energies will enable us to continue our journey, punctuated by successes and new steps towards equal opportunities for women and men. More than ever, the CNFF wishes you an excellent year 2022. We will have the greatest pleasure to welcome you in Avignon on 16 - 20 May 2022.

**Marie-Claude Bertrand, Assistant Treasurer of ICW**



Let us hope that 2022 is a better year for all of us in the ICW family. May 2022 bring all of you good health, peace and happiness. I also wish all of you success in your work in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in your country.

**Hean Bee Wee, ICW Board Member & President of APRC**



To all women and girls, I hope that, whatever their place of birth, they can explore their field of possibilities and realize it. May all of us, wherever we are, come together in the fight for universal, indivisible and interdependent human rights. These are my wishes for all of you for the year 2022, that it will allow us to meet again in May in Avignon, France.

**Brigitte Polonovski, President of ECICW**



Dear Friends, Our very best wishes for continuous and dedicated work for women and for a better world. May wisdom and kindness always blossom in your hearts. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2022.

**Ana María de Goyzueta, President of RCA**



Happy New Year to ICW sisters all over the world. May 2022 bring more empowerment and fulfillment to women.

**Gloria Laraba Shoda, President of the AFRC**

## Reports from UN Representatives

### UN Geneva

During the Human Rights Council's Forty-eighth session held from September 13 to October 11, 2021, 25 resolutions were adopted including resolutions on child, early and forced marriage in times of crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the situation of human rights in Afghanistan.



The child marriage resolution noted the gains made in ending child, early and forced marriage, including the decrease in the proportion of girls married before the age of 18 over the past decade. However, it was predicted that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could result in 10 to 13 million additional cases of child, early and forced marriage that may have been averted by 2030. This would leave 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030, unmet. The COVID-19 crisis had exacerbated pre-existing forms of inequality and systemic gender-based discrimination faced by women and girls and increased the occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices. The ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including school closures and mobility restrictions will have wide-reaching economic, social and human consequences both during and after the pandemic.

The resolution on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan centred on allegations of human rights violations and abuses as well as violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving summary or extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, violence against peaceful protesters and journalists, reprisals, raids on offices of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups, violations and abuses of the human rights of all women and girls, committed by the Taliban and other parties to the conflict.

While deploring the suffering of the people of Afghanistan, the HRC reaffirmed its solidarity with them and stressed the importance of providing proper support and assistance, as well as ensuring accountability by bringing perpetrators of crimes involving violations and abuses of human rights and international human rights law to justice.

Sustainable peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved through an inclusive, just, durable and realistic political settlement that upholds the human rights of all including women, girls, children and persons belonging to minorities. It was important to preserve and build on the political, economic and social achievements of the Afghan people made over the past 20 years. The HRC approved the appointment for one year, of a special rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, to report on the developing situation of human rights, and to make recommendations to improve it.

## &lt; Virtual Informal Briefing to NGOs on 16 December 2021 &gt;



Ambassador Joyini, Chair of the CSW66 Bureau gave an informal briefing to NGOs stating that due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, CSW66 from 14th to 26th March 2022 will be in a hybrid format. The in-person meetings at CSW66 will include the formal opening and closing sessions, the general discussion, ministerial round tables and the agreed conclusions negotiations. All in-person participation can also be by pre-recorded videos.

The in-person ministerial segment from 14th to 17th of March will include round tables and general discussion focusing on the priority theme 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes' and the review theme 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'.

There will be 4 round tables, including on 'Climate change environment and disaster risk reduction policies and programs - advancing gender equality through holistic and integrated actions from global to local' and 'Women's voice and agency - good practices for achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs'. Civil society representatives can express their interest to deliver in-person or pre-recorded video statements of up to 3 minutes.

The virtual interactive events will consist of an interactive expert panel on 'Building resilient futures - bridging the gap between the physical sciences and social sciences communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster reduction' on 22nd March, and a dialogue on 'Harnessing COVID recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future', on Thursday 24th March. NGO representatives can sign up to speak during the virtual panels. No meetings are scheduled for 21st March as this is a holiday.

On the review theme, the commission will hear voluntary presentations by a maximum of 12 Member States from different regions on their lessons learned, challenges, and best practices in implementing the 2017 agreed conclusions. These will be live virtual or pre-recorded presentations. The Bureau has encouraged these presentations to be at the level of minister and to include one health and one civil society representative as part of the presentation team.

CSW66 will have three outputs: the adopted Agreed Conclusions on the priority theme, a resolution on CSW methods of work, and a Chair's statement on how best to utilise the year 2025 to commemorate the Beijing +30 anniversary.

ECOSOC accredited NGOs can now apply for annual grounds passes – but NGO representatives were discouraged from travelling to New York for CSW66 due to the pandemic. No side events would be held on UN premises during CSW66, but there would be a rich program of online side and parallel events in which civil society representatives were encouraged to participate.

NGO CSW New York will again host the online CSW Forum for civil society. Ambassador Joyini had encouraged member states to participate in these virtual informal exchanges with civil society. UN Women would work with NGO CSW New York to hold virtual Vienna cafes to make CSW as inclusive and engaging as possible. Several events with member states will be hosted, but numbers of attendees will be limited.

UN Women will also convene youth advocates from all over the world to serve as a youth review of the priority theme in the hope that their recommendations will inform the commission's own deliberations.



Ambassador Joyini

Ambassador Joyini thanked those NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC which had submitted over 140 written statements as well as those who had shared their concerns and recommendations on the methods of work and on the ACs on the priority theme. She encouraged civil society representatives to send their submissions directly to their member states and planned to send a letter with the UN Women Executive Director, Sima Sami Bahous, to all member states advocating for civil society representatives including youth, to be included as part of their national delegations at CSW66.

The Ambassador said that the CSW66 Bureau members wanted to engage with civil society representatives in a meaningful way in the lead up to and during the CSW. The Bureau valued civil society's strong commitment to advocacy and service on behalf of women and girls. The NGO CSW NY Chair, Houry Geudelekian, welcomed the briefing with the Ambassador and asked that further such meetings be held, which the Ambassador also welcomed. NGOs can send any questions related to CSW participation to: [csw@unwomen.org](mailto:csw@unwomen.org)

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year 2022.



Mohinder Watson, ICW-CIF  
Representative to UN Geneva

**Mohinder Watson, ICW-CIF Main Representative to UN Geneva**

## **UN New York**

As the pandemic continues to surge in New York and many countries, UN activities were held virtually. Elizabeth Carll and Iryna Kurowyckj attended meetings of the NGO CSW Committee and also the NGO CSW Caucus meetings. These meetings were helpful in keeping NGOs apprised of various developments given the limited access to the UN. Generally, meetings of various committees and organizations were fewer than prior to the pandemic, due to the resulting challenges experienced by many.

Developments regarding the upcoming meeting of the March 2022 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) were discussed. All NGO parallel events and government /agency sponsored side events will again be virtual this year. Elizabeth Carll, ICW Main Representative in New York, is spearheading the ICW UN side event that has been sponsored annually by the Permanent Missions of Jamaica and Thailand and the WHO. This year's panel will continue to focus on women's and girl's health and, in keeping with the CSW theme, will examine the health related consequences of climate change and ongoing issues related to NCDs.

The November meeting with the new President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) with NGOs was very interesting and gave insight into his perspective on civil society. PGA Abdulla Shahid, former Foreign Minister of the Maldives, campaigned on a presidency of hope as a result of the devastation, despair, and heartache over the last 18 months. He stated that it was time that the United Nations as the world body that encompasses the international community, needs to give hope to its constituents. He further added that hope has been a central component of his career and it is time that "We the People", unite in giving the hope that people so desperately need. He asserted the importance of multilateral cooperation and that global challenges require unified global action such as a great emphasis on climate change. As a Maldivian national he has experienced the ravages of climate change especially to island nations.

PGA Shahid's priorities for the coming year include leading by example to help the UN reach the "gold standard" on issues such as gender equality. He indicated he would only participate on panels with equal numbers of women and he would push for a more family-friendly UN. He committed to the issue of gender continuing to be one of his top priorities during his presidency, as reflected in his appointments to his cabinet. Furthermore, he will hold regular sessions with the women Permanent Representatives to benefit from their viewpoints.

Elizabeth Carll also attended the 27th General Assembly of CoNGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations), which took place November 29, through December 1, 2021. It was held as a hybrid meeting with many attending virtually and some members of the board of CoNGO attending in person at the UN Church Center. It was one of the few hybrid meetings held at the UN. In addition to discussion of the year's activities and conversations on UN-NGO relations, the election of officers and members of the board took place. Since there was only one person nominated for president and a total of 19 nominations for 20 offices with no contested seats, it was decided to have the Nominations Committee make a final declaration rather than an electronic vote. Levi Batista was re-elected as president of CoNGO.

The 25th grant cycle of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women was due in January 2022. We sent out the Call for Proposals to all and hope that some of you applied for it. The UN Trust Fund was seeking proposals for civil society-led, demand-driven initiatives to end violence against women and girls for multi-year grants for up to USD1 million. Priority was given to applications from women's rights organizations (WROs) and local civil society organizations (CSOs) led by and for marginalized women and girls; organizations with local or community-level reach; and organizations that are the driving force of the ending violence against women and girls agenda in their communities, and those at the forefront of reaching at-risk women and girls and survivors of violence. Hopefully, one of the ICW National Councils was successful.

In addition to the above highlighted events, other virtual meetings focusing on health, COVID-19, violence against women, mental health and COVID, poverty reduction, and climate change attracted both NGOs and government representatives.



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

## UN Vienna

### < Reconvened 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and Reconvened 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) >

At its reconvened session, the CCPCJ discussed, jointly with the CND, the strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions pertaining to the work of UNODC. At the end of the sessions, the results of the elections for the board for the 65th session of the CND and the 31st session of the CCPCJ were held. The chair of the CND will come from Belgium and the chair of the CND will be the ambassador of Japan.



Smuggling of migrants was the main theme in the part of the CCPCJ. The difference between smuggling and migration and the one between regular and irregular migration was made clear. Addressing the root causes in a holistic way is required. Escaping violence often brings women and children in the hands of criminals who use smuggling to commit other crimes.

Corruption may act as a facilitator of smuggling. The pandemic aggravated the situation for children and women exposing them to multiple risks. The Kyoto Declaration, formerly adopted by the GA in autumn, was praised as an excellent roadmap. Despite the difficulties encountered, significant results were achieved.

The themes for discussions to be held during the thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, will be: (i) Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the engagement of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet; (ii) Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society; (iii) Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address organized crime, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of crime, including in the areas of extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery; (iv) Addressing new, emerging and evolving forms of crime, including crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods and trafficking in cultural property and other crimes targeting cultural property;”

The 31st session of the CCPCJ will be held 16-20 May 2022 in Vienna.

During the reconvened session of the CND, the cannabis issue was once again on the agenda. The misuse of the internet with the substantial risks to public health, the need for surveillance, live saving assistance instead of incarceration and a health centred perspective were stressed. Also witnessed was the increase of violence and the demand for synthetic drugs under the circumstances of the pandemic. Given the complexity of the issue some speakers asked to resume the discussion at next year’s session.

Harsh criticism of the report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (agenda item 11) was presented in a joint Statement by a group of 15 states at the reconvened 64th session of the CND: No international consensus would be possible against capital punishment, the report would not be a reliable source of information. “We have serious reservations about the content as well as the process of preparations of the study “Arbitrary detention

relating to drug policies” which was published at the website of the 64th session of the Commission and, through this action, brought to the attention of the Commission, as requested in 42/22 Human Rights Council resolution.”

“Despite a request given to the Working Group in the Human Rights Council resolution to prepare the study in close consultation with Member States, the report is mostly based on views and assessments of the civil society which are presented as the ultimate truth. Such a selective and biased approach questions the credibility and authority of the study. Having said that, we emphasize that the report cannot be considered as a reliable source of information or valuable input to the work of the Commission which has never requested the Working Group or the Human Rights Council to present it in Vienna.”

Following this statement, the speaker of the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) expressed concern about the refusal to allow a statement of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the Human Rights Council. “Not allowing the statement of a UN instrument is not understandable and would set a dangerous precedent...The Commission should indeed be open to hear information, opinions or advice from various external stakeholders. This definitely includes statements promoting the protection of, and respect for, human rights and the dignity of all individuals. The study that the Human Rights Council working group would like to present is public and not part of the work of the CND. It is, however, very relevant to the CND mandate and highlights where issues are still to be addressed. Since the creation of the Commission, we have been committed to strengthen our normative framework and widen our scope. We therefore regret that such a request for a statement is used by some to divide us instead of helping us move forward...We hope that the WG will be able to make its statement at a later stage.”

A highly valuable, excellent and important statement by the chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs on Agenda item 4c concerning the participation of CS / NGOs in the sessions of the CND was made. The video of it can be found on you tube under Jamie Bridge, Vienna NGO Committee 64th Reconvened 2021. I strongly recommend to watch it.

The 65th session of the CND will be held from 14-18 March 2022 in Vienna.

## United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

### < The 19th General Conference of the UNIDO >

“UNIDO’s mandate is crucial in international cooperation. ‘Building a better future’ is not only the topic of this General Conference but also one specific target of the sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030” the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Amb. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, said when congratulating Mr. Gerd Müller on his appointment as Director General of UNIDO.



*Eleonore Hauer-Rona,  
ICW-CIF Representative  
to UN Vienna and UNIDO*

The 19th session of the General Conference, held in a hybrid format because of the COVID-19 restrictions, was an important one for several reasons. There are some highlights of the agenda below.



"If UNIDO hadn't already been founded 1966, it would need to be founded today - to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development for a green recovery..." underlined Director General Gerd Müller in his statement. The UNIDO was established in 1966 as a program of the UN and became an independent specialized agency of the UN in 1985 with headquarters in Vienna. I recommend to watch the you tube video 55 years of UNIDO in order to get better understanding about the important role and key position in Sustainable Development this body is playing for our future and for women's role in it.

A big round of applause thanked Mr. Li Yong for his successful leadership of the organization. It was the result of his efforts that SDG 9 was included in the list of SDGs. Some more merits of his eight and a half years as Director General are the 2013 Lima Declaration, the 2019 Abu Dhabi Declaration, the Program for Country Partnership (PCP), the "UNIDO Strategic Framework for the Fourth Industrial Revolution 2022-2025: Making 4IR (Fourth Industrial Revolution) work for all". Aware that energy and climate are closely linked, UNIDO launched after the COP 26 the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative.

Under great pressure of the COVID-19 circumstances but in timely, constructive and efficient manner a number of decisions was produced and adopted as well as three Resolutions:

- UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women (GC.19/INF/4, page 13-16)
- Development of a UNIDO Strategy in response to climate change
- Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Among numerous statements at the General debate, Norway together with Mexico took the lead in stressing the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Norway had submitted resolutions on this topic during previous General Conferences.

Women need to expand managerial positions, we have to learn, to connect and to transform the way we educate in view of the many changes in short time. Digital readiness and connectivity are imperative, but we also have to be aware that also robots can get infected.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a giant leap in digital transformation and further deepened digital divide within and among countries. What lessons can we take from this pandemic: COVID-19 will not stop the industry, but countries would move towards recovery in different speed.

The gap between poor and rich must not get wider. Food and pharmaceutical sovereignty are a must in order to ensure a functioning health system in a crisis. The necessity of circular economy and of industries which are respectful to the environment bringing about the change we need. A disaster resilient infrastructure and an environment conscious lifestyle will show how independent we can be, if we fail or succeed to overcome the challenges ahead. Concrete timelines for implementation of sustainable waste management systems are required.



Gerd Müller, a son of a small farmer and professor for international agricultural policy, will concentrate also on the lives of millions of farmers still living in poverty. He gave impressive examples of his experiences in this area made during his country visits. For example: “The future must be for the processing of the coffee to take place in the producer countries. Local value addition can increase tenfold. Then children won't need to work on the plantations anymore – they can go to school”.

Thematic events presented high-level speakers and lively discussions:

- UNIDO's contribution to the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development 2022
- New Forms of Investments as drivers for a sustained post COVID-19 recovery
- Accelerating climate impact for Member States through Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)
- The post-pandemic world will be digital: implications of 4IR for developing countries
- Revival of industrial policy-prospects for establishing a global industrial policy forum for multilateral policy learning and knowledge sharing

The 20th Session of the UNIDO General Conference will be held from 27 November to 1 December 2023 in Vienna. More details: [www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)

**Eleonore Hauer-Rona, ICW-CIF Main Representative to UN Vienna and UNIDO**

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

2022 is just started and it's an understatement to say that 2021 has been a difficult year. Whether because of the unrelenting COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in extreme weather events due to climate change, or mounting threats to our ecosystems. In the last two months still many FAO events occurred in a virtual setting and in addition to the conferences many initiatives started to reduce extreme poverty, eliminate hunger, improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity and rural living standards and contribute to global economic growth.

One of the main events was the 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) which was held virtually from 11 to 14 October 2021. Organized shortly after the United Nations Food Systems Summit, CFS 49 focused on the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report, uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work and other ongoing CFS workstreams and priorities.

The virtual conference had 887 registered participants coming from 128 different countries around the world, including representatives from governments, research and academia, NGOs, finance institutions, civil society, practitioners and farmers' associations and 21 renowned speakers, including Ministers, Ambassadors and FAO Permanent Representatives offered their remarks and responses on the state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture.

Among the statements the Committee took note of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women and Girl's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition and Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Symposium on Salt-affected Soils (GSAS21) "Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity" was also held in a virtual format from 20 to 22 October 2021. There are naturally saline or sodic soils, which harbor valuable ecosystems, and include a range of plants that are adapted to extreme conditions. However, secondary salinity and sodicity can develop or increase rapidly in response to unsustainable human activities, posing a threat to agricultural production, food security, the provision of essential ecosystem services as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Salinization and sodification of soils are among the most serious global threats to arid and semi-arid regions but also for croplands in coastal regions and in case of irrigation with wastewater in any climate.

The main objectives of the Symposium are to share knowledge on salinity prevention, management, and adaptation and to establish critical connections between science, practice, and policy by facilitating discussion among policy makers, food producers, scientists, and practitioners for sustainable management of salt-affected soils.



In addition, I also attended the High-Level Launch of the State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture: Systems at breaking point (SOLAW 2021), which took place on 9 December 2021 with a consultation for the development of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

For decades, farmers, workers, indigenous peoples, women, youth, and all other marginalized and oppressed sectors opposed and resisted WTO's trade rules and conditionalities. As it continues to wreak havoc on people's lives and livelihoods in the global South, discontent has grown to greater and wider resistance. Every WTO ministerial conference was met with massive protest actions by people's organizations and social movements from Seattle (1999) to Cancun (2003), Hongkong (2005), Bali (2013), and Buenos Aires (2017).



Nanda Nobile, ICW-CIF Representative to FAO Rome

## Reports from Standing Committees

### Report by ICW-CIF Arts and Letters Advisor

The Sunshine Coast PLEIN AIR PAINTERS practiced for the opening of a pop-up gallery in Yandina. Impressionist, **Claude Monet**, was an exponent of plein air – where an artist paints a scene on the spot, capturing, perhaps, the sun, movements and shadows, wind, in the moment. SDGs 4/8/16 **Tausend Dank to Eleonore Hauer-Rona** for a wonderful 'virtual' tour of marvellous art from exhibitions in the Lentos Museum, Linz, Austria.



Maria Angelita Ressa

Congratulations to **Maria Angelita Ressa**, Filipino-American journalist and author, who won the **Nobel Peace Prize**, and did spectacular work combatting fake news. World Economic Forum Congratulations, also, to our sisters celebrating the 100th Anniversary of **Guatemala's Independence from Spain**. CONAMGUA's Educational & Cultural Forum SDGs 4/5 **Prospero Ano Neuvo 2022!**

Important BOOKS covering our world embrace our humanitarian and educational goals. *"I saw that in its depths there are enclosed/Bound up with love in one eternal book/The scattered leaves of all the universe."* Dante, 'Paradiso'.

'**THE PARIS INHERITANCE**' **Merryn Corcoran** Aurora 2020. The story moves from a sheep station in the North Island of New Zealand, to Paris, France. The Ulverscroft Foundation (UK 264873) was established in 1972 to provide funds for research, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases. This text is in large print, specifically because of the major projects funded by this registered charity. [www.ulverscroft-foundation.org.uk](http://www.ulverscroft-foundation.org.uk) SDGs 3/4/10

**Jaclyn Moriarty** promotes a brilliantly imaginative novel '**FUTURE GIRL**' by **Asphyxia**. Moriarty writes of Asphyxia's work: "Beautiful, immersive...a sensory feast..." *"A life changing book for young Deaf and disabled people...of personal growth and pride, demonstrating the importance of the #OWN VOICES movement."* **Carly FRIDAY. Piper's mum** wants her to be 'normal', to pass as hearing and get a good job... when peak oil hits and Melbourne lurches towards environmental catastrophe, Piper has more important things to worry about, such as **HOW TO GET FOOD!** Piper meets Marley, a **CODA child** (Child of a Deaf Adult) – and enters a new world where Deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide and where resilience is created through growing your own food...and learning **AUSLAN**, a sign language that is exquisitely beautiful and expressive. **FUTURE GIRL** is the Art Journal of sixteen-year-old Piper, a visual extravaganza of text, painting, collage and drawings, woven into a deeply engaging coming-of-age story, set in near-future Melbourne. It is created by Deaf writer, artist and activist, **Asphyxia**. SDGs 1/2/3/4/6/8/10/11/13/15/16



*In 1975, the U.N. made a resolution asserting disabled people (and thus Deaf people), have the same right as fellow citizens, to enjoy a decent, full life; to be entitled to measures designed to enable them to become as self-*

*reliant as possible and entitled to have their needs taken into consideration at all stages of economic and social planning.* Readers will recognise dire socio-political, socio-economic and socio-cultural warnings.

**'THE ILLNESS LESSON'** by Clare BEAMS. Written in intensely vivid prose and brimming with insight, 'The Illness Lesson' is a powerful exploration of women's bodies and minds, and the time-honoured tradition of doubting both. SDGs 3/4/5/16

**Australian, Fiona Higgins 'THE MOTHER'S GROUP':** "...in most parts of the world...people are busy surviving. Trying to get enough food, clean drinking water, or education for their children...achieving happiness or enlightenment is a preoccupation of the privileged..." p.60 "...prayers and sweet incense wafted across her; the heady scent of her homeland. She imagined the earth pulsating beneath her, rich with worms and rotting leaves. Like all psychiatry is a TOTALISING EPISTEMOLOGICAL paradigm that offers one-pill solutions for women, failing to recognise the SYSTEMIC social issues that inform female mental health!" p.254 "It's a PHOENIX," said Ginie, "to remind us all beautiful things can be reborn of ashes!" p.301 SDGs 3/4/5/11

**Congratulations!** to Queensland's wonderful and unstoppable **Stefanie Bennett 'The Volatile Principle,' Stefanie's Anthology**, was dedicated to the Paugussett Indian Nation of Connecticut USA and those who took arts action, winning the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize – then...gifts of two volumes – **'All The Yesterdays After'** and **'The Pathfinder' Selected HAIKU** graced my letter box! Beautiful and profound. *"The Soul would have no Rainbow if the Eyes had no Tears"* - Native American Proverb. SDGs 3/4/5/8/12



Jennifer Ann Davies,  
Arts & Letters Advisor

**'PARIS BY STARLIGHT'** by Robert Dinsdale. This is an unusual novel, written in vivid, haunting language. "A fairytale for adults, with all the wonder – and terror – that that entails." Observer This talented author weaves magic, yesterday and tomorrow; light, beauty, joy, love, unity and division, from Music! Unusually beautiful.

Joyeuse nouvelle annee a tous! Happy New Year!

Jennifer Ann Davies, ICW-CIF Arts and Letters Advisor

### Report by ICW-CIF Environment Advisor



The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, also known as COP26, was held in Glasgow, Scotland from 31st October to 12th November, 2021. One of the scientists who contributed to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Science Report, is Professor Mark

Howden. He gave a presentation on 21st September, explaining why the decisions to be made by member countries of the United Nations at COP26 in Glasgow matter to all of us.

Already, as predicted by earlier IPCC Reports, the world is experiencing many extreme events. We have experienced extreme heatwaves that cause suffering and death. We have experienced the effects of such heat

on intensifying wild fires, as in western North America, in vast areas of Russia, in the southern Mediterranean countries, in the Amazon, and in 2019-2020 in eastern Australia. Other extreme events are from torrential rain from storms, tropical cyclones/hurricanes that cause flooding. Especially difficult have been unprecedented flash flooding. The result is loss of homes, businesses, farming land and lives. Such extreme events are predicted to get worse.

According to Professor Howden, the IPCC report indicates that the global temperature is heading towards well over the 1.5°C that had been agreed at the Paris COP. We are heading towards 3-4°C now. The effects of sea-level rise are already impacting many coastal areas with salty water inundation, but sea-level rise will be disastrous if ice sheets melt. Countries like Indonesia, being an archipelago, have millions of people and their livelihoods made more vulnerable because they live in coastal areas. Often these people live in poverty and are vulnerable to food insecurity. (Ref. Podcast by ANU Crawford School, R. Glasser, 1/10/21)



The compounding effects of hazards can be overwhelming. Heat waves, (that have increased 20 times over last ten years), lead to droughts, give rise to huge fires, loss of habitats and biodiversity, loss of homes and businesses, and adverse effects of smoke on our health. (op. cit. Glasser) The former New South Wales chief fire officer, Greg Mullins has said that with temperatures at 50°C, wild fires that are whipped up by pyro-convective storms and multi-directional winds are impossible to control or put out.

Dr. Robert Glasser, associate professor of Australian National University (ANU) spoke about severe and existential impacts for people and that we are under-estimating how quickly these effects will happen. Although some countries are making deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, most are not doing nearly enough.

### < Why Net Zero Emissions? >

The talk of Net Zero emissions by 2050, is only part of the job. Firstly, all countries need to take action much earlier, which is why some are talking about deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. We have very little time. Reductions in carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, must be rapid and deep. This means huge increases and investment in renewable energy sources and no coal fired power.

It means electrification of transport or development of "green" hydrogen-fuelled vehicles and vessels like ships. There needs to be big reductions in oil and gas. It means adopting carbon farming, and reduction in methane from livestock and garbage dumps. People can take action to reduce waste, and there has been increases in the adoption of circular economies.

### < What are countries doing? >

Professor Howden spoke of 137 countries committed to Net Zero by 2050. About 90 countries have submitted new Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs). For example, the United Kingdom has committed to 68% reductions by 2030, the European Union to 55% reductions, the United States of America to 50-52%, and



Canada by 40-45%. So far, the Australia government has made no change, keeping its reductions at the Paris Agreement level of just 26-28%.

What has been happening in Australia is that each State and Territory government has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by Net Zero by 2050, and many are committed to faster reductions. The Australian Capital Territory has had 100% renewable electricity since 2019, and Tasmania and South Australia have increased renewable energy production to very high levels.

Regions are proceeding to invest in micro-grids of solar and wind power with batteries. Some places are using pumped hydro as a form of battery by using renewable energy to pump water to a high level, then releasing the water to run turbines for electricity when needed at night. Big business is committing to deep changes and talking about a green recovery. There are massive opportunities for those nations and industries that invest in solutions and increased efficiencies.

On October 7th, the Prime Minister of Samoa, The Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa spoke about the real impacts of climate change. In regional meetings of South Pacific countries, the significance of sea-level rise was discussed. Sea water from King tides invade homes, farming land and coastal roads and bridges. More intense storms have led to more flooding. These countries have a whole of government approach. They increased their emission reduction targets. The Samoan target is 100% renewable energy by 2025. She spoke about gaining climate finance to improve resilience.

#### < What should National Council of Women (NCWs) do? >

NCWs need to urge their ministers of government:

- To take action to reduce emissions, deeply and soon
- To take the opportunities that renewable energy systems (with storage) provide, to encourage businesses to take such opportunities
- To plan for Hazard Maps, so as to re-locate people from hazardous areas, and not allow people to settle in such areas
- To stop logging of old growth forests, and to encourage planting of trees



Wendy Rainbird,  
Environment Advisor

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

#### **Report by ICW-CIF International Relations and Peace Advisor**

I had the honor to be approached by the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) in Washington DC, to join, together with women researchers, developing an electronic book entitled "On the 21st Anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 and NESA's 21st Anniversary: 21 plus countries and 21 plus Women's Voices". My contribution in the matter was to put the focus on the Israeli and Palestinian women as partners for peace.

The following, moreover, are only a few of the virtual events that I participated in:

- Civil Society Summit on substantive issues, organized by CONGO - the Conference of NGOs, on the occasion of UN Day 2021. At that Summit, the Panel on Gender Justice, Youth and Intergenerational Solidarity, raised pertinent questions such as: "If we are to contribute to shaping the future, what should that future be? And how can we prepare ourselves and our communities? What agenda can we hold in common? What actions must we take to address today's problems in ways that respond to current needs and anticipate future expectations? Above all, how can we mobilize our various publics to address the challenges of today and tomorrow?" It goes without saying that these questions demand deep thinking and should be kept in mind in the development of strategies and action plans of women's organizations.
- Georgetown Institute's Panels as well as virtual events of GNWP - the Global Network of Women Peace Builders. A Side-Event here dealt specifically with Sustainability, Equality and Peace, highlighting the linkages between climate change, security and gender, and showing how policies, investments and local interventions can accelerate action to inclusively tackle the climate crisis whilst leveraging the contributions of women on the frontlines.
- Within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**, I took part in the international campaign "Orange the World", to support the UN's call, to act effectively as a "global voice for women". The major event was held at the Knesset – the Israeli Parliament, which enabled the reinforcement of the dialogue on the critical issue of Violence against Women (VAW), between policy-makers, women organizations, and civil society representatives.
- On November 14, I took part in an interesting and stimulating event called The Herczeg Seminar, held by CWOI, on the topic of "Resilience & Opportunities: Feminine Leadership in Uncertain Times", with the participation (via Zoom) of some 100 Jewish women leaders from several parts of the world. I had the privilege of contributing to the preparation of this seminar as a member of its Steering Committee, together with my dear friend Aviva Kohlman, who also was the Moderator of the event.
- I also had the privilege to be invited by the Swedish Ambassador to participate in a Round Table on the topic of the contribution of women to peace-building, together with members of the "Women Wage Peace" movement and the Palestinian organization "Women of the Sun". This meeting was held in the presence of Diplomats from different Embassies who showed interest in supporting women's initiatives in promoting peace.
- Meetings at the Israeli Parliament, of the Committee for the Advancement of Women, on the implementation of UNSC 1325 and the issue of the Istanbul Convention, were also part of my agenda in the last few months, developing partnership with stakeholders.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to address my very best wishes for the New Year, to ICW President Jungsook Kim, and to all my friends at ICW and ECICW, with the hope that 2022 will bring peace, good health and prosperity for the whole world.



Mazal Renford,  
International Relations &  
Peace Advisor

**Mazal Renford, ICW-CIF International Relations & Peace Advisor**



### Report by ICW-CIF Child and Family Advisor

The new COVID variant has put further constraints on families world-wide. We hear from many parts of the world that the basic needs of families have changed for the worse since this pandemic put pressure on all countries' health care resources. Families which have been displaced due to famines, fires, floods, wars and other catastrophes, have had their basic needs further threatened. Most countries have been resilient to varying degrees, to their abilities and with the help of other nations' humanitarian organizations.



*Sheila Pepper,  
Child & Family Advisor*

Those families on the move and migrating from central countries around the globe, south or north to cooler countries, have faced more roadblocks and closed borders, as some countries traditionally accepting more refugees and immigrants, are stretched beyond their abilities to feed and shelter them as they await processing near borders in supposedly temporary refugee camps. Many desperate people are risking their lives to try to find safe and accessible places to live and thrive.

In Africa, hunger and disease are daily challenges for most families in sub-Saharan countries. The five most common causes of death in children are: pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Chronic malnutrition, community violence, lack of most health care services and deprivation of schooling, forced marriages of underage girls and early pregnancies continue to be difficult situations to solve. However, many humanitarian organizations in Africa and international charities have been helping many communities with these urgent problems. Forced child labour in mines, quarries, on plantations and in factories, continues to keep children out of school and in often dangerous situations. Prostitution is a constant problem here and world-wide. The pandemic has worsened so many of these aspects of family life.

Central and South American countries: Many of these countries have lower marriage and higher cohabitation and non-marital child bearing rates than most other countries. Some have a dramatic drop in fertility rates and high birth rates to unmarried couples. Single parent families are common and many children live with extended family members. Under nourishment rates are high & education rates moderate, though employment levels vary widely. Child 'laundering' and baby trafficking as adoption methods, internally and internationally has been a problem for many years, as orphanages regularly falsify children's ages, health, education, conditions and origins- to enable illegal adoptions. This occurred, as an example, after the Haiti earthquake. Wife selling and 'bride price' has been a practice in several countries for many years (the Indian Dowry system' is in place here too). Child sponsoring from many more developed countries is a way to keep families together and help the entire family.

Asia and South Asian countries: Many of these countries also have dubious adoption policies, selling girl babies and infanticide. Many babies are adopted internationally, by taking and fining the parents who have more than the approved number of children. Child labour practices are endemic, and dangerous working situations are common. Girls are often kept out of school & into marriage as children. Gradually these practices are changing, but tradition is paramount in many countries. As the COVID-19 pandemic began in these areas,



vaccinations have been slower to stem the flow of recovery and millions have died.

The Middle East and North Africa: Early marriage is a common practice here too, partly for protection of the girls, as many are on the move—to more northern countries, for better living conditions. Many sons are sent ahead, also as children, in the hopes they can settle in other countries and sponsor the rest of their families. International and civil wars are frequent; violence and displacement mean separation of families, extreme poverty and fear of the future, as many borders are closed in more recent years. Refugee camps are more crowded and many families are caught at borders and turned back. Many boat loads of migrants risk and some lose their lives trying to find sanctuary.

Europe and the United Kingdom: Child and Adolescent Health programmes are improving their lives, but as more and more migrants flow into these countries, the residents are having to cope with fewer resources, more violence and crowding of urban areas in particular. Brokering for adoption of babies born to unwed mothers has been a practice for many years here too. Some families believed they were lending their children for education in other countries, but not permanently. Resources for immigrants have been stretched beyond several countries' means and are being curtailed.

Australia and New Zealand: Many programmes have been put in place to help indigenous families which have, for generations, been disproportionately disadvantaged in many ways: in health, housing, education, workplace, protection and the courts. Children's mental and emotional health has been further compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic, but much less so than in many other countries. The National Workforce Centre has helped children in these cases. Home and work conflicts for parents trying to have normal lives for their children, are frequent and parents face many more challenges in recent years.

North America: The U.S.A. and Canada face many challenges with their Aboriginal/Indigenous, First Nations/Inuit and Metis populations, which have for many years have been unable to successfully win even some basic rights without taking the Federal Government to courts. This situation is slowly changing, as many original agreements with Indigenous Reservations are challenged in courts and these populations are getting better living conditions and special status rights, for rural and urban populations. The recent finding of many unmarked graves on Residential School properties has caused many more disruptions and sadness, to be addressed also in the courts. Trafficking of girls and children across provincial and international borders has long been a problem. Prostitution and exploitation of children in person and on the internet is a huge violation for many families. The pandemic has closed borders as yet another wave of infections has increased in many provinces. Child and Family Poverty reduction has been a focus for several Advocacy groups in Canada, with some and slow improvements. International poverty levels are set by the World Bank, and North America is the hope for destination for many refugees and migrants.

It is hoped that the next 2 years will see improvements for family health and well-being in many countries.

**Sheila Pepper, ICW-CIF Child and Family Advisor**

## News from Member Councils (NCWs)

### ■ National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) ■

I recently stood down as President of National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA) after completing my three years as President. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a challenging three years. My huge disappointment is that a Mid-Term nor Triennial Conference was not able to be held. I am hoping that the NCWA Triennial Conference planned for early 2022 will be able to go ahead. I do hope that all Australian States and the ACT remove permanently all border entry restrictions- after all we are all Australians.



*(Left to right) Outgoing President Robyn Nolan,  
Incoming President Chiou See Anderson*

During my three years, the NCWA Board has also changed considerably with changes in a number of Constituent Council Presidents. Like any volunteer organisation the strength of it is its people with some Constituent Council Presidents giving and participating more than others. As an advocacy organisation it is my view that over the last three years NCWA has been very successful with a significant number of submissions to both the House of Representatives and the Senate Committees of Inquiry and submissions on Legislation. I have been invited to appear before a number of Committees and participate in a number of roundtables.

Submissions made include: Aged Care Quality and Safety Royal Commission, VET Review, Australian Government Priority settings for CSW, National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australia Workplaces, Social Security (Administration) Amendment Income Management and Cashless Welfare Bill 2019, Australia's Family Law System Inquiry, Retirement Income Inquiry, Paid Parental Leave Amendment (Flexibility Measures) Bill 2020, Federal Budget 2020, and Federal Budget Submission 2021, Homelessness in Australia Inquiry, Litigation Funders Inquiry, Human Rights of Women and Girls in the Pacific Inquiry.

The list above is not a complete list but more a sample of the range of work undertaken. As well I have written many, many letters to Ministers on a range of health, housing and women's economic security and safety issues. I am very proud of the changes made to Superannuation (on small balances, insurance and the removal of the superannuation guarantee threshold) cancer drugs and other medications placed on the PBS, housing initiatives to name but a few.

NCWA advocated very strongly on a range of these issues and obtained change. There is however much work still to be done.

I was invited after a competitive application process to be one of the two community organisation delegates to be a member of the Australian delegation to CSW in New York for two weeks in 2019. While members from NCWA have attended CSW over the years this was the first time in a very long time that the NCWA President was a member of the official Australian delegation.

As I stated earlier in this report NCWA has a new President and new Executive elected at its recent AGM held in late November 2021. There is also a new Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The new NCWA Executive is as follows: Chiou See Anderson, President/ Fiona Dorman, Vice President/ Lorraine Hardgrave, Secretary/ Yvette Kinkade, Treasurer/ Robyn Nolan, Chair of Standing Committees/ Barbara Baikie, Board Member. The new President, Chiou See Anderson said that NCW New South Wales, Australia's oldest constituent council, would be celebrating its 125th anniversary in February. It is a tremendous milestone achievement, and it is up to all of us to keep NCWA councils relevant and purposeful. She also said that she looked forward to supporting her 7 Australian constituent councils and meeting all the Presidents at the upcoming ICW GA in Avignon in May 2022.

Best wishes for a safe happy and healthy 2022.

Reported by Robyn Nolan, Immediate Past President of NCWA

### ■ National Council of Women of Belgium (Dutch Speaking) ■

#### < Marie Popelin Prize >

In 1905, Marie Popelin founded the Belgian National Council of Women. 75 years later, the Dutch-speaking Council of Women of Belgium awarded for the first time the M.P. Prize to a woman for her exceptional contribution to the improvement of the situation of women and to equal opportunities for women and men. The prize became a prestigious event returning every five years.

In December 2021, professor **Ines Keygnaert**, an expert in sexual and reproductive health working at the International Centre for Reproductive Health (University of Ghent), was rewarded for her scientific research into sexual violence and care facilities for victims, as well as for the way she translates these insights into practical models of care and policy measures. Based on her research and interviews with more than 1000 victims, victim care and aid have changed thoroughly. The approach has become holistic, focusing entirely on the patient and a long period of after care. Since 2017, Belgium has been implementing the model of care centres after sexual violence in its big cities.



Professor Keygnaert's work is internationally known: European directives she helped develop are being regarded as good practices. Within UNHCR, she was able to draw the attention onto the issue of sexual violence against refugees.

Bart Somers, Flemish minister in charge of equal opportunities, was invited to hand over the prize: a painting by young artist Hazel Van Hove, representing Afghan girls and women fearing for their lives daily. At the same time, the work of art expresses hope and resilience. Zonta International, one of our affiliates, nominated Ines Keygnaert for this prize.

< **Conference day Period Poverty at school: food for thought and tools for action presented by field workers in education (Brussels, October 2021)** >

Girls living in poverty have to skip school regularly because there is no money at home for buying menstruation materials. It deprives girls of their right to education and it maintains gender inequality. The important questions to be answered: how to detect period poverty? How to stop the shame? The conference day offered research and numbers, presentation of educational projects (some of them organized by our affiliates), the Network against Poverty elaborated on the issue as part of poverty at school, Dear Body clarified that talking about sexuality is not always obvious in a society bringing together people with different backgrounds, values and standards. Watch an impression on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Wak7QkwiKZk>

< **Draft law: adjustments to the sexual criminal law within the Belgian Criminal Code** >



In October, we were invited by the Justice Committee of the federal Chamber of Representatives to make an explanatory statement regarding this draft. The right to the sexual self-determination of the victim is at the centre: everyone is free to consent with sexual acts, provided that the consent is really present. We were able to focus on some of our worries:

relevant international treaties are not always referred to, there is no gender related approach of sexual violence (as opposed to a gender-neutral approach), the burden of proof stays with the victim, and etc.

**Reported by Anne Rowie, NCW Belgium**

■ **National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)** ■

“Listening to, learning from, and acting on, the Recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry” will continue as our Common Program for the next two years. Many Councils have taken this theme to heart and hosted speakers or panel discussions, in person or virtually. In conjunction with the Education Fund of National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), arrangements are being finalized for a webinar with Senator David Arnot. Formerly Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission’s chief commissioner, he has also worked as Saskatchewan’s federal treaty commissioner and as director-general of Aboriginal Justice in the Department of Justice Canada.

In December, the Montreal Council of Women (MCW) and NCWC co-hosted a webinar entitled: Children's Rights in Canada: Supporting Parents in Protecting Children Online. NCWC and MCW united with Senator Julie Duchene in marking Children’s Day on November 20th by participating in a protest outside of MindGeek/Pornhub headquarters in Montreal. Canada and World Children’s Day marked the adoption of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which includes protecting children in the digital world. We are calling for action on adopting age verification measures to protect children from exposure to pornography and other harms encountered by children and youth on the internet.

A December 8, 2021, article by Mark Melnychuk in the Saskatoon StarPhoenix entitled *Mother raises alarm on explicit Reddit posts featuring underage Sask. girls* states: "A Saskatchewan mother is asking for authorities and companies to do more to combat the sexual exploitation of minors online after she discovered her daughter's name was published on a section of the website Reddit that appeared to show naked photos of underage girls from this province." NCWC President Patricia Leson immediately contacted federal Liberal Members of Parliaments, Marci Ien and Karina Gould and Conservative Member of Parliament Karen Vecchio concerning this.

Disproportionately high rates of suicide among Indigenous youth is also of great concern. The 2021 spring federal budget included \$597.6 million over three years to develop a mental health strategy for Indigenous communities, and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (Saskatchewan) is committed to working with provincial and federal representatives in this.

Prior to the federal election in October, an 'NCWC Report to Members' comparing party positions with NCWC's priority issues was issued; after the election the President further coordinated an 'NCWC Report to Government' emphasizing our priority issues for Cabinet Ministers' mandates. The President also strongly urged the Prime Minister to continue working diligently to develop and implement a national reconciliation framework to address the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as it is a crucial step in rebuilding Canada's relationship with our Indigenous peoples.

NCWC supported the passage of Bill C-15, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was passed into law in June 2021.

On September 29, 2021, NCWC was officially invited by UN Women to be consulted on the CSW's (Commission on the Status of Women) consideration of its working methods. As a core group member of the EU/NA caucus, NCWC worked with the membership to plan the upcoming UN CSW66 session, co-chairing working on the CSW methods of work with the UK Alliance of Women Organizations. NCWC has called for new sustainable and equitable working methods to be considered as it will increase participation during the session and ensure our space in the formal and informal negotiations process. The official CSW66 statement on behalf the caucus has been issued by NCWC and presented to UN Women. A proposal to this effect has been sent to Canada's permanent representative to the UN, the Hon. Bob Rae, along with the official statement and proposal that a CSW Canadian Task Force be established to ensure space for civil society voices within the government official delegation.

From March 14 to 25, 2022, NCWC will participate in the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66); from May 26 to 29, we will hold our first (hopefully) in-person AGM and Conference in Ottawa.



Karen Dempsey,  
Former President of NCWC

**Reported by Karen Monnon Dempsey, Former president of NCW Canada**

## ■ National Council of Women of France (CNFF) ■

On October 28, 2021, National Council of Women of France (CNFF) organized the web conference to present the book, "The gender of capital, how the families perpetuate inequalities". The authors of the book, Sibylle Gollac, a sociologist and a researcher at CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and Céline Bessiere, a sociologist and teacher at Paris Dauphine University discussed about how patrimony inequalities are linked to the gender. The book contains the authors' research on the family wealth arrangements.

The book describes that within families, heritages from one generation to another, are based on a strategy that usually creates inequalities between men and women. Also, laws and experts in charge of law application, do not prevent those inequalities but give them legitimacy. While women do housework for free, men have a career to build their work experience and patrimony.



November 6 is the Gwada Girls Tech Day in Guadeloupe – French West Indies. It is the day of action to encourage young girls to consider STEM education and career. After having two web conferences, workshops in a hybrid format opened to the participants.

Click the links below to watch the recorded videos of the conference:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryseProject/videos/276204140949420>

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryseProject/videos/2987402944841804/>

On December 1, 2021, CNFF had symposium. Marie-Claude Bertrand, President of the CNFF, handed over the White Paper on professional equality between women and men to Delphine O, ambassador-at-large and Secretary General for the Generation Equality Forum. This edition of the White Paper was awarded the Generation Equality Forum label.

The symposium gave opportunities for exchanges between various committed actors on the following themes:

- Results of the Penicaud index, Rixain law
- The impact of the health crisis on the different mental burden between men and women, and on the feminised sectors of health and care
- Gender parity in the public sphere - a condition for equality in public policies

The contributors of the 2nd edition of the white paper, prefaced by Elisabeth Moreno, Ministry for Equality between Women and Men, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, also shed light on the progress of gender equality in different sectors of activity such as agriculture, crafts, digital, and sport. With this in-depth



work, CNFF demonstrates that gender equality in the workplace can only be achieved through cross-cutting actions and a systemic vision. The health crisis has highlighted the gaps.

< CNFF plans for the year 2022 >

- CNFF will send a letter to the candidates to French presidential election
- During the CSW66, CNFF organizes a parallel event with Union Européenne des Femmes (UEF) with the theme, "Air and blue gold, two treasures that require protection to be shared".
- As a host council, CNFF prepares the ICW General Assembly in Avignon from 16 to 20 May, 2022
- Reflexion on the Woke movement and Yogyakarta principles
- Girls Tech Day in Poitiers, from 4 to 5 March, 2022

Reported by Marie-Claude Bertrand, President of CNFF

■ National Council of Women of Germany (DFR) ■



The last few months were very exciting for Deutscher Frauenring e.V. (DFR). Our organization represents the interests of women in all areas of public life since 1949. We are independent, non-partisan and non-denominational and as a socio-political women's association in Germany we are active nationwide. As a member organization of international women's associations, we also work to realize women's rights around the globe.

DFR successfully hold the seminar "Intersectional Feminism – Why a Broader Perspective on Discrimination is Needed" on the 8th and 9th of October. Four experts, Natasha A. Kelly, Nava Zarabian, Andrea Röpke and Ines Kappert, were invited to introduce the concept of intersectionality to the German audience, to deepen their knowledge of inequalities in the society and widen perspectives on feminism. The discussion between experts and audience was enriching for the participants as well as for the speakers. The concept of intersectional feminism was our annual theme 2021, with the seminar being a highlight of last year's work. The scientific and activist work of Natasha A. Kelly, one of the speakers, was honored with our annual distinction as 'Frauenringsfrau' recognizing women fighting for (gender) equality. Taking on the issues of intersectionality not only led to a great seminar but also broadened the perspectives of our organization on gender discrimination.

Our contribution to the German Alliance for WPS 1325 again was very strong. We had a serious meeting with the Foreign Office about the meaningful implementation of the German NAP WPS 1325 III for the continuation of the evacuation and safety of Afghan women and human rights defender and women and girls of vulnerable groups and minorities from Afghanistan. We then participated in the first peer review process on the Swiss and the German National Action Plan (NAP) by the two Governments and CSOs: the new format convinced us that it can enhance NAPs as all stakeholders can learn from each other. The DFR as part of the WPS 1325 NGO Alliance also participated in a webinar with candidates from democratic parties for the national elections about future challenges and our recommendations within the WPS 1325 agenda and made a policy paper with election test

stones which were sent to all parties' secretariats. We embrace the idea of 'feminist foreign policy' but wanted to make sure it is based on the human rights framework and serious disarmament. Now, seeing the election result it seems at least in the wording we succeeded. But we will monitor the whole process carefully.

At the end of October 2021, the annual general assembly took place online, after it had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic situation. The members of the DFR exchanged their ideas, talked about internal changes as well as current issues concerning social inequality and elected five new board members. The newly elected board presented their visions for the next period of legislation.

For the year 2022, the DFR decided to highlight climate justice and feminism. The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We must urgently change our behavior and societal structures to slow down the effects of climate change. Climate-friendly thinking must be introduced into a wide range of social and political areas. It is precisely at this point, in the negotiation of measures and goals, in the introduction of action strategies and the promotion of climate protection, that the role of women and gender justice must not be forgotten. The DFR wants to impart more knowledge on the connection of climate and feminism. We are planning to have two seminars with experts on climate and/or gender perspectives on environmental changes to make this important connection heard and implemented in the discourses on climate change.

We are looking forward to keeping on working for women's and gender justice in all sectors of life in 2022!

Reported by Emma Bombien

### ■ National Council of Women of Great Britain (NCWGB) ■

Although National Council of Women of Great Britain (NCWGB) has been meeting often via Zoom over the past three months, our main drive has been to re-brand ourselves in order to improve our social media image and update our website. We have employed a creative company and held many workshops for members and non-members; these have proved very stimulating as we try to bring our mission statement and vision for NCWGB up to date.



We are entering the final stages of this lengthy exercise and hope to launch our new image in Spring.

The publication of the Resources Booklet during this period has been the source of much pride in our younger members, who did most of the research for the booklet. It is a very valuable, modern looking document, which is proving very useful in our work within our National Council of Young Women in schools.

(We are happy to share this booklet of 47 pages with any of our ICW colleagues – as a pdf doc - please contact our office [info@ncwgb.org](mailto:info@ncwgb.org))

Reported by Elsie Leadley, NCWGB President and Sheila Petersen, NCWGB Vice-President

### ■ National Council of Women of Guatemala (CONAMGUA) ■

1. National Council of Women of Guatemala (CONAMGUA) initiated contact with INSIVUMEH (the national technical-scientific center which contributes in the optimization of the productive sector activities related to the atmospheric sciences, geophysics and hydrology) in order to start a disaster's prevention program in the entire country. Unfortunately, being a governmental unit with numerous simultaneous projects takes time to consolidate our proposition. Ana de Goyzueta has had several phone communications with their authorities; a meeting is scheduled for January 2022.



2. CONAMGUA has been preparing a "The Wise Men Day" event for the children of women in need of our project in Sacatepequez to be held on January 6, 2022 with the associate's cooperation of educational gifts: pencils, pens, rulers, log books, coloring books, story books, hygiene elements such as soap, toothpaste, etc. and a little toy or ball.

3. CONAMGUA has sent our journal as well as New Year's greetings to all NCWs included in the CRA listing.

**Reported by Alcira García-Vassaux, Public Relations Secretary, CONAMGUA**

### ■ Council of Women's Organization in Israel (CWOI) ■

The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) Rosita and Esteban de Herzceg Jerusalem Seminar for Jewish Education is taking place once every four years in Israel and has always been an exciting learning experience for all the participants. The seminar is an opportunity to create dialogue and discussion on issues related to gender equality, to strengthen Jewish identity, to provide a toolbox for Jewish leadership in ICJW affiliates and to strengthen the connections and partnership between the communities.

The last Herzceg Seminar held in November 2021 was a different seminar from all the previous seminars. The global crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed the entire world affected the format of the seminar and its contents as well. The seminar was held in a digital format and broadcasted via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube to 35 countries.



*The Seminar's Committee: (from right to left) Prof. Zehavit Gross, Oshrit Setbon, Mazal Renford, Leah Aharonov, Gila Oshrat, Rinah Cohen, Sarah Shunamit, Aviva Kohlmann*

The main topic of the seminar was: Resilience & Opportunities: Feminine Leadership in Uncertain Times. The issue of feminine leadership has come up on the world agenda again during the current crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the inspiring examples that ignited the exchange on this issue is that of Jacinda Arden, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and in other countries where there are women heads of governments. Their success has once again sparked a debate as to whether feminine leadership has distinct and clear characteristics. Throughout the day the seminar dealt

with issues of resilience, Jewish identity and belonging, characteristics and challenges of feminine leadership in general and during COVID-19 in particular, as well as building partnerships and strengthening the communities in the diaspora.

The seminar opened with greetings by the President of the State of Israel, his Excellency Yitzhak Herzog, and all the speakers were leading women from various fields in Israel and around the world, including:

- MK Meirav Cohen - Minister of Social Equality and Retirees in Israel
- Prof. Zehavit Gross - Associate Professor at the Bar-Ilan University and Director of the UNESCO Education for Human Values, Tolerance and Peace, encouraging cooperation between Jewish and Arab women.
- Irina Nevzlin - Chair of ANU - the Museum of the Jewish People, about Identity and Belonging based on her book: "The Impact of Identity: The Power of Knowing Who You Are"
- Leah Aharonov - former President of International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)

The seminar was produced by a team from the Council of Women's Organizations in Israel and ICJW accompanied by Penelope Conway – ICJW President.

Gila Oshrat, the chair of the seminar concluded: "The seminar was a great success and sharpened the importance of the role of women leaders in taking responsibility and seeing every crisis as an opportunity to influence and work to promote a better world in which equality and social justice exist."



(from left to right) Prof. Zehavit Gross, Irina Nevzlin, and Gila Oshrat,

Link to the YouTube seminar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2q6-WYzol8>

**Reported by Gila Oshrat, Former President of CWOI and Aviva Kohlmann, VP of CWOI**

## ■ Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW) ■

2021 has been a very busy year as Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW) celebrated most of the international days and months.

1. In August, LNCW was pleased to hear that Ms. Neheng Khatala, a female athlete performed well in Olympics, Tokyo 2021. She made the record that had never been made by any Mosotho woman before and we decided to honor her so that young women can be motivated to take part in sports. The event was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender at LNCW headquarters. Ms. Likeleli Tampane, Minister of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation in Lesotho also attended this event.
2. On October 2, LNCW marked the International Day of Older Persons to raise awareness about issues affecting the aged and advocate the rights of older people.

3. By celebrating World Food Day on October 16, LNCW organized a very successful event and our catering students displayed their items at the event. Besides, we participated immensely in the commemoration of World Aids Day on December 1 and we were able to have different programmes on the fight against HIV and AIDS infection among young women.

4. From November 25 to December 10, LNCW also had organized a series of activities to support the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence by hosting public gatherings, radio talk shows, and some youth edutainment events.



To increase women's empowerment, LNCW carried out some programs. One of the programs we had is to provide rural women in the Quthing district with training for identifying and utilizing resources to reach out to the local community. For example, they can make cosmetics with different types of aloes which are available in their villages. They were trained in different methods on how to use such resources to start business projects.

Another program was for young girls in Quthing and Leribe districts. In this program, young women and girls were taught about their sexual reproductive rights to make good choices about their reproductive lives. This was done to curb the increasing rate of teenage pregnancy and child marriages which were identified as some of the challenges facing the youth in Lesotho. The other training was on jewelry making for LNCW members who wanted to set up a small business.



LNCW members hosted some radio programs in different radio stations to advocate the rights of women and girls and to sensitize the nation about Alzheimer's/dementia among old people.

We held graduation ceremonies for both our vocational schools and Early Childhood Education Centers. It was very fortunate to have many visitors including an Italian Ambassador, Paola Amadei who visited the council to learn more about what we are doing.

**Reported by Patricia Mabataung Mokhathali, President of LNCW**

### ■ National Council of Women of Madagascar (CNFM) ■

On October 6, 2021, National Council of Women of Madagascar (CNFM) was the major actor of the consultation workshop on the promotion of women's political participation in Madagascar, implemented by European Electoral Support Centre (ECES). The objectives of the workshop were to analyze the root causes of the low participation of women in politics in Madagascar and to formulate proposals in order to develop a guide to increase this representation. After the workshop, the participants formed a group of reflection and continuous exchanges in order to keep the dynamism and think on the continuation of the actions to be undertaken.



From October 20 to 23, CNFM evaluated the project to empower women who produce geranium essential oils in Fiadanana village, Ambositra, Amoron'i Mania region. This project received funding from ICW. As a result, 15 women received training on hygiene and quality of essential oils in order to meet production standards. At the same time, they received training on personal development,

leadership and management of their small production unit. The beneficiaries expressed their satisfaction with the benefits of the training on their personal development as well as their activity. They could access to the national market and have been able to sell their products to the capital. They called for the continuation of the project in order to ensure their economic empowerment in a sustainable way.

From October 28 to October 29, CNFM organized a consultation of women in the 23 regions of Madagascar with a view to gathering information in order to formulate an additional protocol on gender in the framework of the African Free Trade Area (ZLECAF). 720 women engaged in trade were consulted all over the 23 regions of Madagascar.

On November 24, CNFM participated to a consultation workshop on the Maputo Protocol, organized by the National Independent Human Rights Commission as part of the celebration of the 16 days of activism against gender-based. This workshop aims to strengthen the advocacy for the ratification of the Maputo Protocol. The protocol was analyzed article by article, remarks were made and action plans for further advocacy were defined in order to accelerate the ratification of the protocol by Madagascar.

On December 1, CNFM organized a workshop in the south west Region of Madagascar, in order to sensitize young, women and disabled people to actively participate in local consultation structures. These local consultation structures are community structures in which young people and women should participate in order to increase their participation in decision-making bodies at all levels. 50 people participated to this exchange and sharing workshop.



On December 11, CNFM was the honorable guest of a conference organized by the Malagasy Scouting Movement in the framework of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The representative of CNFM intervened on the theme of women rights, while other panelists talked about adolescent pregnancy and domestic violence.

On December 28, CNFM was invited to participate to a TV debate focused on gender-based violence in Madagascar. The debate will be broadcasted on the national TV channel and is aimed to enhance education, information, sensitizing the population on gender-based violence. In Madagascar, the law on gender-based violence was voted in 2019, but so far the cases of violence are still increasing.

CNFM has planned major programs for this year 2022.

1. Celebration of the International Women's Day: Press release in conformity of the national theme of the official celebration
2. Capacity-building activity for women involved in upcoming electoral processes: citizen education to vote, election observation, candidacy for election
3. Gender-Based Violence Control Activity. This activity could be carried out as part of a Call for Interest launched by Care International Organization, for which CNFM is strongly encouraged
4. Activity related to women's entrepreneurship according to a partnership proposal from Soroptimist. This activity could also relay the activity carried out by ZLECAF under the leadership of CNFM and following which we have a complete database on Malagasy women entrepreneurs

**Reported by Andriamasy Marie Estelle, President of CNFM**

### ■ National Council of Women of Malta ■



*Roberta Metsola,  
President of European Parliament*

National Council of Women of Malta congratulates Hon. Roberta Metsola on her appointment as President of the European Parliament in January 2022. We are greatly honored that an NCW Malta member has reached such a high position in the European Union. Indeed, the results of the elections reflect the trust members of the EU Parliament have in Roberta Metsola.

**Reported by Doreen Borg Zammit, President of NCW Malta**

### ■ National Council for Women Societies – Nigeria (NCWS) ■

#### < Inauguration of the Plateau State >

On November 6, 2021, Plateau State joined the National Council for Women Societies – Nigeria (NCWS) and successfully conducted their election as the NCWS President Dr. Gloria Laraba Shoda and her electoral team inaugurated new serving executives.

< Taraba State of the NCWS conducted campaign against Gender-based Violence >

The 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence kicked off on November 25, 2021. It was started by activists at the Taraba state, NCWS' affiliation and it would continue to be coordinated every year by the state center for women. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the state to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, the NCWS President Dr. Gloria Laraba Shoda called for general actions to increase awareness, galvanize into advocacy efforts, and share knowledge.



< NCWS led Nigerian women on Peace-walk >

NCWS has stressed the need for peace and prayers for Nigeria to overcome current challenges in the country. The council noted that the purpose of the event was to strengthen the love and unity among Nigerians, especially for the sake of the women and children. The theme of the event was "One Day Nigerian Women Arise Peace Walk and Prayers." NCWS President, Dr. Gloria Shoda organized this event to extend the peace, love and unity in Nigeria regardless of tribe. She said that women can marry without sentiment of tribalism.



If Nigeria breaks, where would the women be? The women need to think where to go because someone can come from the North and marry to an Easterner. What about our children? They will be divided. As we are tired of seeing and hearing of kidnapping, robbery, killing and vandalism, we want peace in Nigeria. We want one Nigeria to remain for sustainable unity and that is why we are having peace-walk today. Women prayed for stoppage of killings, kidnappers,

disunity and banditry among Nigerians, as the NCWS president observed that without peace there would be no development in the country.

Dr. Gloria Shoda said "Not only prayer will solve the problem; we are also appealing to government to try and get youths employed, as lot of them are out there looking for what to do. As you know an idle mind is devil's workshop. When they are restless, anything can happen. So, I want government to try and provide employment



for the youths. If they are gainfully employed there will be less insecurity” Meanwhile, the youth wing of the council was not left out as they marched all the roads of Abuja praying and calling for peace, love and unity of the country. According to its national leader, Comrade Sarki Sylvia Yemi, youths need empowerment by government to engage themselves for meaningful endeavours.

Reported by Gloria Laraba Shoda, NCWS President

### ■ All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) ■

All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-religious organization working in partnership with both local and international partners for women’s empowerment and rights. APWA is working since 1949 initiated by Begum Ra’ana Liaquat Ali Kahn, the first Asian woman to receive UN Human Rights Award. APWA is running programs on education, health, skill development, youth and women’s empowerment in all the provinces of Pakistan. Especially, in Karachi, APWA is running six education projects and five health projects providing quality education and better health care facilities at nominal fees.

#### < Economic Inclusion of Women >



APWA organized programs including session for “Gender Equity and Women’s socio-economic Inclusion” with the collaboration of State Bank of Pakistan. The APWA President Ms. Charmaine Hidayatullah’s efforts and coordination with the stakeholders of State Bank, we have achieved to develop awareness regarding financial assistance for women entrepreneurs. The program was launched in March on the occasion of International Women’s Day by the Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Reza Bakir and since

then numerous Help Desks for Women’s financial assistance have been placed in the APWA Projects in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. These sessions provide support to the beneficiaries of APWA in terms of promoting “Women Entrepreneurs” through the provision of loans on easy installments.

#### < Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign >

Every October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month across the globe. APWA Health Centre also conducted Breast Cancer Awareness campaign by conducting various activities to increase awareness on the importance of early detection through screening as this can lead to a cure and save a women’s life. These sessions included presentations on breast cancer followed by the screening methods and diagnostic tools of breast cancer, the followed by free medical check-up for women.

### < Professional Development >



APWA Education Projects aims to train teachers to lead the challenging tasks that lay ahead and to induct them into the mainstream of the society for which APWA provides opportunity to engage teachers in continuous profession development. Therefore, during summer and winter vacations APWA organize numerous in-house professional development sessions with the support and coordination of reputed Education and Training Institutions.

### < Free Medical Camps and COVID-19 Testing >

APWA has a tradition of organizing health awareness sessions on regular basis including health and hygiene awareness along with reproductive health programs, Antenatal and post-natal care, free of cost vaccination for children, ultrasound, bone marrow density test and numerous other health related sessions. During the pandemic COVID-19 awareness sessions were especially organized in different health centers of APWA, where masks and sanitizers were distributed. During these sessions free COVID-19 testing was also conducted and the cases having symptoms were also referred to SIUT for treatment.

### < Future Initiatives >

APWA aims to establish Women's Resource and Training Center and Legal Aid Center to ensure equal access of women to justice; to initiate vocational trainings center for women's socio-economic empowerment. Additionally, APWA is planning to provide updated training to its health care and medical staff. In this manner, APWA would be able to achieve the aim of empowering women as well as serve as a catalyst in the process of development of the country that would benefit the whole globe.

Reported by Charmaine Hidayatullah, President of APWA

### ■ National Council of Women of the Philippines ■

From October 14 to 15, 2021, webinar on ICT awareness entitled "Women in Cyber: Building Cyber Defense & Offense Strategy", open to all NCWP affiliates, initiated by affiliate, Ina Poong Bato, Inc. in coordination with the Department of Information, Communication and Technology and participated in by national organizations.



From November 25 to December 12, 2021, Violence against women and children (VAWC) information campaign was conducted in Cauayan City by NCWP affiliate Cauayan City Green Ladies Organization and attended by local women leaders, students, and the community.

In November 2021, approval for funding by the Philippine Council of Women of a livelihood seminar for Marawi Weavers initiated by Past President Teresita Gonzalez with additional funding support for startup kits from National Federation of Women's Club and monitoring by NCWP Director for Mindanao, Bai Norhata Alonto.

On December 13, 2021: Webinar on Values Formation and Life Skill Seminar-Workshop for Teens and Girls with 177 registrants, 44 participants ages 25 and above and 133 from ages 13 to 24 years old from all over the Philippines; spearheaded by institutional members, Young Women Christian Association with Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Catholic Women's League, Philippine Women's University and National Federation of Women's Clubs.

On December 27, 2021: Face to Face Launching of Food for Share Program for 100 vulnerable families affected by pandemic and eventual distribution of rice assistance for the succeeding six months in partnership with UNILEVER Philippines, Kabisig ng Kalahi, Local Government Unit of Tanay and national government agency, Department of Social Welfare and Development with NGO Team Partner and implementor, NCWP affiliate Tanay Ladies Association coordinated by EVP Lina Lutgarda M. Tanjuatco. Same project is replicated in two (2) more mountain barrios. Continuing Book Distribution Project to far flung areas i.e., schools and barrios.



Same project is replicated in two (2) more mountain barrios. Continuing Book Distribution Project to far flung areas i.e., schools and barrios.

#### < Major Programs for 2022 >

In partnership with affiliate organization, Balikatan sa Kaunlaran project CITE LOCAL: promotion of local research on women and girls through funding and mentorship of relevant student theses and dissertation.

- Bi-monthly seminar workshops on cybersecurity and on ICT literacy
- Continuation of livelihood seminars with free start-up kits & monitoring of 2nd Quarter ninety women displaced and repatriated by pandemic who were provided with start up capital.
- Quarterly virtual educational exposure trips on community-based environmental programs. Lined up are artificial reef plantation & IEC.
- Webinar on Mapping your Cyber defense resources and options: available also ACWO and ACWO partners.
- Continuation of Book Distribution Project
- Localized monitoring of UN SDG indicators.

Reported by Cecilia La Madrid Dy, President of NCWP



## ■ National Council of African Women (NCAW) ■

### < Outreach Program on Customary Marriage >

Generally, women in South Africa, and in particular the widows, experience a lot of problems with regards to customary and/or forced marriages. Problems: They are stripped of their dignity and the very basic need to grieve when death of the spouse occurs; They are denied inheritance rights, in case where the existence of the marriage is questionable; They become vulnerable and get marginalized by the patriarchal in-laws as well as the community in which they live.

During the year 2021, National Council of African Women (NCAW) focused on the outreach program to empower women with regards to the creation of awareness and rights relating to customary marriages. Several dialogue sessions were organized. Relevant topics were discussed by different professionals in the field. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its lockdown regulations, some meetings were organized virtually.

### < NCAW's Plan for 2022 >

Improvement of Pit Toilets: There is still a growing need for standard hygiene and safety sanitation in the deepest rural areas of South Africa. National Council of African Women is pursuing the UN Sustainable development goal, of ensuring availability and sustainability of sanitation. The lack of sustainable sanitation not only predisposes people to diseases, but they are also a physical hazard for young children. Some toilets are so old, dilapidated and almost near collapse. There is a history of children who fell into some of these toilets and died a tragic death. There is no infrastructure for sewerage in these areas, and water supply is a problem. The municipality delivers water to the villagers twice a week with trucks.

The plan is to empower women to build 'improved' toilets. 50 toilets will be built in one of the villages of the Limpopo Province as a pilot project. The National Council of African Women will be in the forefront of training women to build these types of 'improved' toilets. We will work together with the professionals and local civic leaders in this project. Fund raising drive and donations for this project will be crucial.



*Mannethe Margaret Mphahlele,  
President of NCAW*

This project is an outreach program to empower and support disadvantaged women in the village. It will make them to be skilled in several ways. They will be self-sufficient and resourceful, promote self-help skill among them, improve their personal hygiene and that of their family members, and restore their dignity and self-esteem. This will be an ongoing project, yet not ignoring all other projects that the NCAW has been doing in the different communities. Going forward, the women will be skilled enough to continue on their own, and in the process, they will be able to share and empower other women (skill transference).

**Reported by Mannethe M. Mphahlele, NCAW President and Mapula Nkomo, Immediate past NCAW President**

## ■ National Council of Women of Spain ■

Haurralde Fundazioa, affiliated council of the National Council of Women of Spain, has served 308 people a month, in the food security service for migrant families and has continued with its free psychological care throughout the months of October to December, 2021.

We highlight as important of the year the 1st Forum Iberoamericano Afomujeres y Defensoras de Defensores Humanos as an academic and social space aimed at promoting women's rights to be exercised, contributing to the construction of peace as a paradigm of change and development from the movements of AFRO women and human rights defenders. It was carried out in a semi-virtual way in collaboration with the government of Valle del Cauca (Cali- COLOMBIA) and several women's organizations. The result of this meeting has been the Manifiesto of Afro-descendant Women and Human Rights Defenders for feminism, Peace and Development.



In the last quarter of 2021, a face-to-face meeting was also held in San Sebastián, the Basque Country, of migrant women and associations with the presence of the Network of Latin American and Caribbean Women of Spain. With the aim of sharing pedagogical methodologies / tools, of political incidence for the exercise of women's human rights.

On November 25 "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" we have carried out a performance to recognize "Las Mariposas" (Minerva, María Teresa and Patria Mirabal) who fought and lost their lives to defend women's rights in Dominican Republic. In honor of the 70 women victims of femicide in 2021 in Spain (19 of them migrants), the performance called "Butterflies for Memory" was built among activists and volunteers using the hashtag at the state level. #Hartas #BastadeFemicide #VivasNosQueremos

In 2022, we will finalize a study on "Mental Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health of Migrated Women in Situation of Social Vulnerability in times of pandemic: Approach to their coping strategies." The study aimed to know the situation in two key issues, mental health and sexual and reproductive health in migrant women during these two years of pandemic. We will report the result of the study in March 2022.



The Association of Retired Women and Pensioners of Tarragona is an affiliated council of the National Council of Women of Spain. During the month of November 2021, 15 face-to-face workshops were held for groups of eight older women in each workshop. The main objective of the workshops is to improve the immune system and provide older women with the necessary resources to be able to face the psychosocial impact from a gender perspective that COVID-19 has caused them, especially older women who live alone. Each workshop lasted three hours, it was made up of a theoretical part and an interactive part with the participants. The workshop has been conducted by a doctor, a psychologist and a dietician.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Spain has been one of the countries most affected by COVID-19. The imposition of confinement measures and the loss of social interaction, has increased the incidence of stress disorders, anxiety, depression, loneliness and social isolation, fear and sedentary lifestyle, causing gender inequalities in health, and affective challenges social, increasing in particularly vulnerable groups, especially older women who live alone.

All these issues derived from COVID-19, until now little known, due to overexposure to social networks, are now the subject of public policies and a generalized debate. Considering that women have a longer life expectancy, older women need more long-term care and preparation. Now we have the opportunity to decide and plan how we slowly return to normality, and what our life will be like living with the pandemic.

**Reported by M. Rosa Llurba Caparó, President of National Council of Women of Spain**

### ■ National Council of Women of Taiwan (NCWT) ■

During the last quarter of 2021, the National Council of Women of Taiwan (NCWT) organized three events for its members, one to highlight the importance of engaging young women and girls in the effort to achieve gender equality, another to increase knowledge about the benefits of nature and the environment to women's mental and physical health and last but not least, the NCWT annual meeting for our members to meet and network.

To celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child and to advance generation equality, NCWT held a virtual seminar on 19 October 2021 to introduce the work of Love Binti, an organization launched by three young Taiwanese college students with a mission to improve the lives and health of rural girls and women in Africa. From the presentation, the participants saw the vast potential of young people to achieve their goals with creativity, passion, and energy as well as the importance of bringing young people into the struggle to achieve empowerment of women and gender equality.

Since establishment 5 years ago with its first menstruation hygiene and pad making project in Uganda, Love Binti programs have reached Kenya, Eswatini, Burundi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Congo and South Sudan and have expanded to upgrading classrooms and community centers, promoting women's social and economic participation in the community, providing vocational training on micro-enterprise and agricultural skills, and

providing safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education.

As the organization grew, the young leaders engaged young men and women from other generations and partnered with universities, church organizations, the private sector in Taiwan and local organizations in Africa in their volunteer activities. More than 90 people attended this event spearheaded by ICW APRC Treasurer, Joan Fuh and members from Welcome to Taipei International Club. Moved and inspired by the presentation, members from Zonta 31 District raised funds to donate sewing machines to Love Binti.

Since its establishment, women's health has been an important concern of NCWT. On 22 December 2021, NCWT cosponsored a seminar, "Women and Horticulture," with PPSEAWA on the health benefits of gardening and the environment. The six experts included two academics, a psychiatrist, two horticulture therapists and one artist. The two professors discussed their research and evidence that spending time in nature improves one's physical and mental health. The two therapists shared how their activities can be designed to help relieve stressful situations in the home.



Upon learning that domestic violence cases and women's care burden increased during the COVID lockdown in Taiwan, one therapist turned her attention to designing online horticulture therapy programs for the whole family so as to help women and their families engage in horticulture activities that relieve stress while beautifying the home. Noting that Taiwan is facing a rapidly ageing population, the therapists also introduced the benefits of horticulture therapy for older people with Alzheimer's or dementia. They spoke about how the activities elicited memories for the elderly, improved their attention-span and stimulated communication between the elderly and younger family members, while creating new memories for all of them.



The artist, who also works with flower arrangements, introduced paintings of flowers and nature by female artists, including her own work. The psychiatrist discussed the use of horticulture therapy in his practice and the benefits of having gardens in hospitals. He noted that even though there is no medical evidence linking horticulture to direct benefits in mental illness

cases, horticulture therapy seemed to stabilize a patient's emotions and that patients who stayed in hospital rooms overlooking mountains and greenery from their windows seemed to recover and leave the hospital faster. The one common advice shared by all the panelists is that spending time in nature and greenery benefits health and well-being.

On 11 December 2021, NCWT held its annual meeting, which focused on showcasing the work and activities of its members during the COVID pandemic. ICW Standing Committee Advisor on Women and Employment, Mae

Chu Chang, ICW APRC Treasurer Joan Fuh, NCWT Former President Betty Chang and I presented the work of ICW while the presidents of each member organization presented their work. In addition to fundraising, the activities of NCWT members in 2021 ranged from bringing remote medical care to rural communities, advocating for elimination of gender-based violence, providing training and services to migrant women and families, providing scholarships to girls from disadvantaged families, international networking, advocating for the rights of health workers and empowering their members and communities with through new knowledge and skills.

Reported by Linda Liu, President of NCWT

### ■ National Council of Turkish Women (NCTW) ■

On November 10, 2021, National Council of Turkish Women (NCTW) marked the 83rd anniversary of the death of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founding father of the Republic of Turkey. Under his leadership, Turkish women got the voting rights of local election in 1930 and the full universal suffrage in 1934.

On November 26, 2021, European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW) Meeting was organized by Brigitte Polonovski, ECICW President with the topic, "A problem that is underestimated: Violence on older Women". General secretary of ECICW, Magda de Meyer gave a presentation on the topic. NCTW Member, Nursel Ulucam translated the ECICW report and will post it in the coming bulletin.



*NCTW executive board members*

Annual international campaign, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, took place from November 25 to December 10, 2021. In spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NCTW supported UN Women's campaign with our council branches. NCTW President Fatos Inal translated the statements of UN Secretary General, António Guterres and Executive Director of UN-Women, Sima Sami Bahous. She shared them to all NCTW branches. NCTW executive board members attended the event of Cankaya Municipality with

our orange masks and scarves. Adana council branch held a zoom meeting about sociological aspect of femicide and NCTW members attended this event.

Aydin and Ankara council branch carried out the "Paint the World to Orange" activity with a street protest. They distributed brochures containing information on preventing violence against women and girls and hotlines. Burdur council branch also held a street protest with the slogans, "Everything in the World is the Work of Women" and "Let's Stop Violence".



*Burdur council branch*

Other NCTW council branches also joined this movement with different slogan:

- Bursa council branch - "Do not remain silent violence against women and girls", "You are not alone".
- Gölbaşı council branch - "Istanbul Convention is the guarantee of my life"
- Kilis council branch - "Violence against Women is a shame of humanity",
- Elazığ council branch - "Stop Violence Against Women", "Violence against Women is Betrayal to Humanity",
- Bolu council branch - "We are against all forms of violence"
- Manisa council branch - "Istanbul Convention Keeps Alive"
- Kuşadası council branch - "Women Murdered in the Province"
- Trabzon council branch - "Action Plan for Combating Violence against Women"

Reported by Fatma Fatos Inal, President of NCTW

## Condolences



*Jacqueline Barbet-Massin  
(photo taken by  
Eleonore Hauer-Rona)*

The ICW-CIF announces with deep sorrow the death of Mrs. Jacqueline Barbet-Massin. Jacqueline was General Secretary of the ICW from 1979 to 1995 during the Presidencies of Miriam Dell, Sook-ja Hong, Lily Boeykens, and Kuraisin Sumhadi. All those who knew her appreciated her unflagging energy, her skills and her warm-hearted personality.

She has forged strong friendly ties by hosting one or the other member during Paris Board meetings. And she found a great source of fulfilment in these multicultural contacts. The link with the ICW has been a key element in her life almost as well as with her family. She had become a personal friend of many ICW members who will be saddened by the news of her passing.

Written by Marie-Christine Lafargue, Ancienne Secrétaire Générale du CIF

## Upcoming Events

### ◆ The 66th Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women



- **Date :** 14-25 March, 2022
- **Priority Theme :** Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

#### \* ICW-CIF Virtual Parallel Event

- **Date:** March 17, 2022 (8:00 AM EST)
- **Theme:** Economic Empowerment of Women in the Changing World of Work

### ◆ 2022 ICW-CIF General Assembly

- **Date :** 16-21 May, 2022
- **Venue :** Hotel Mercure Pont d'Avignon, France



## **The 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. Over the past 134 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 four world conferences, including the Beijing Conference of 1995 and Beijing+25. It will continue to be there, representing women's voice and promoting and protecting international human rights of women to make the world a safer and happier place for women.

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



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

Tel: +82-2-3474-2002 Fax: +82-2-3474-6193 Website: [www.icw-cif.com](http://www.icw-cif.com)

Email: [icw.jskim@gmail.com](mailto:icw.jskim@gmail.com), [icw.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:icw.secretariat@gmail.com)

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