

News Line 1

June 1998

May I remind everyone that our three Working Groups are now in progress? The Chairs would be glad to hear from any INLW member who wishes to contribute to their work:

Domestic Violence

Chair: Ineka van Ark-Hessing
Taco Schelternstraat 18
2597 CP Den Haag
Netherlands

Forced Marriages

Chair: Mobina Jaffer, Suite 268
3316 Kingsway
Vancouver
British Columbia V5R 5K7
Tel: (+) 16044383369
Fax: (+) 1613 235 7208

Statistics on Women's Representation in Decision-making

Chair: Monique de Vries M.P
J.V. Oldenbameveltlaan 113
The Netherlands
Tel: (0) (+) 31703182894
Fax: (0) (+) 31703182924

Reports from the Working Parties will be included in the programme for our next Annual General- Meeting in Brussels, late March 1999.

Resolutions to Liberal International Congress

We are proposing to submit a resolution on the theme of the Congress (Globalisation and its Effect on the Nation State). This is in draft, for consideration by the Management Committee. The proposal is to review the impact of globalisation on women's lives and to urge adoption of measures to reduce potentially adverse effects.

Please send me any suggestions you have for other resolutions we might submit.

UN Commission on the Status of Women New York, March 1998

I hope several members of INLW will be able to attend this meeting. As an accredited international body, we are allowed five delegates, plus observers. I am making inquiries about INLW hosting a meeting during the programme. The topics to be discussed next year are 1) women's health and 2) governmental institutions which assist the advancement of women. A draft paper on institutions will be considered by the INLW Management Board. Would anyone who wants to comment on this issue please get in touch with me? It would also be very helpful to hear from anyone who plans to attend the meetings.

INLW Competition

Please publicise our competition and encourage people to enter. We hope for entries which will give us valuable publicity material.
Entries to Emmi Weiss.
Deadline: 13 November 1998.

INLW Website

Jan Weitjers, at Liberal International, has created a Website for us:<http://www.world.lib.org/inlw/>
We have asked him to put a notice on it stating our concern at the Taliban's closure of even

private schools for girls in Kabul, and giving our support for UN action on the matter.

General Interest

We all receive notices of events which might interest INLW Members. Please send me any which you think we should publicise. Here is my list from recently received materials.

1. "Equality is the Future"

Directorate-General V of the European Commission is running a Congress and Exhibition on this topic, 22-24 September 1998, in Brussels. Participation is free.

The deadline for applications was 29th May, but in view of the belated distribution of papers, it may be worth asking for a late application to be considered. Apply to ANIMA, Rue Montoyer 47, B-1000, Brussels. Fax (32.2) 509 15 44. Email anima@skynet.be.

2. 50th Anniversary of The Second Sex

An International Conference is being run by Nouvelles Questions Féministe in Paris on 21-23 January, 1998, with papers reviewing the impact of Simone de Beauvoir's *Le Deuxième Sexe*. Registration Fee f25-00 (250 Ff). Prospective contributors should submit a 1500 word abstract of the paper they wish to present, with a short curriculum vitae, before July 15 1998. Apply to: Cinquantenaire du Deuxième Sexe, e/o Nouvelles Questions Féministes. IRESO/CNRS 59-61 rue Pouchet 75849 Paris CEDEX 17 France.

3. "Women, Take Back History and..."

In 1998, the Philippines are celebrating the Centennial of Philippine Freedom. The National Centennial Commission includes a Women Sector which is planning activities to ensure that women's contribution to Philippine history is given recognition. An International Conference will be held in Manila on December 8-12, to include presentations and discussions on women's concerns and cultural activities.

Chair: Helena Z. Benitez

Address: PWU-DIW A, Taft Avenue

Manila 1004, Philippines

Tel: (+) 521 3383

Fax: (+) 522 4002

Email: diwa@linuxl.pwu.edu.ph

On behalf of INL W, I have written to Helena Benitez to congratulate her on this programme to recognise women's achievements.

4. CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Nations which have signed up to this Convention are required to submit a report to United Nations every four years, regarding their progress in eliminating discrimination. These reports are realistic only if they are based on consultation with women's organisations. This year (1998) the UK Government has for the first time formally consulted its official, independent women's advisory body, The Women's National Commission.

We are very pleased about this and would like to publicise evidence of other Government's consultation with women's groups. Please send your news to me, for inc1usion in the next INLW news letter.

5. Bella Abzug will be remembered by INLW members who attended the CSW meeting in March this year. She was the lady in a hat, in a wheelchair, who received great applause for her rousing speech in a plenary session. Bella died a fortnight later. She founded WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Association) and argued in the US House of Representatives as early as 1971 for federally financed 24 hour childcare. I sent condolences to WEDO on behalf of INL W and inquired about an association with them, as they are a most valuable source of information.

6. Re-orientation of EU Funds

The European Commission has announced a radical re-orientation of Structural Funds after 1999, to concentrate on three objectives:

Helping the poorer European regions, helping areas facing decline in employment opportunities and modernising education, training and employment policies. This third objective will promote social inclusion and improvements in women's participation in the labour market.

Padraig Flynn, Commissioner responsible for Employment and Social Affairs, stated ..."I am determined... that equal opportunities for women and men should be addressed right across the Structural Funds programmes and initiatives..." "The focus has shifted from women as a group with additional needs to the more complex patterns of relations between the genders". For example, he points out, "the unequal share of domestic work and family care disadvantages women in the labour market (and) advantages men". He is promoting conciliation of work and personal life, support for child care and care of dependant's and improved organisation of working time.

These issues are all well known to INLW members but it is welcome to see them highlighted in European policies.

Elizabeth Sidney June 1998