

## **News Line 10**

February 2000

### **Prize of Freedom 2000**

The INLW nomination for the Liberal International Prize for Freedom 2000, Mrs Asma Jahangir of Pakistan, was recommended by the Bureau and accepted at the Executive. Asma Jahangir is an internationally recognised human rights lawyer working in Lahore, Pakistan. Together with her sister she runs a law firm which provides free legal advice for the victims of injustice and helps many women fleeing domestic violence. In 1986, she founded the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, an organisation which she still chairs. Asma and her sister also founded the first refuge in Pakistan for battered women.

*(see INLW, Newslines No7, August 1999 for more information on Asma Jahangir)*

### **Liberal International Executive Committee Meeting, 18-20 February**

INLW was represented at Taipei by Elizabeth Sidney. The Executive approved two resolutions put forward by INLW. The resolutions concerned CEDAW (Convention for the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination) and the war in Chechnya.

The CEDAW resolution urged Liberals to promote gender equality in their country by ascertaining its status with regard to CEDAW and where necessary pressing for ratification, as well as ratification of the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

In the resolution concerning the war in Chechnya, Liberal International calls for Russia to stop military attacks against civilians and to seek political solution in Chechnya. Equally Liberal International calls for the organisation of a referendum in Chechnya to determine in a democratic way, if the majority of them wish to become an independent state.

### **Equal representation**

The Executive Committee examined the INLW proposal that all Party delegations to L.I meetings should include not more than 60% of either gender. Our figures showed the number of delegations to Brussels which did not conform to this. The Executive concluded that L.I. could not impose such a requirement on Party delegations but could urge parties to take gender equality into account. At the suggestion of the Canadian delegate, the Executive agreed to monitor gender representation on delegations henceforth.

### **New Members**

We are delighted to welcome the Honourable Marian **Maloney**, who for many years was a member of the Canadian Senate, and continues to be an active and distinguished member of the Liberal Party of Canada.

We also wish to welcome as new members Diana **Wallis** UK, Liberal Democrat Member of the European Parliament, and Dr Elvira **Puka**, Chair Albanian Liberal Women's Organisation.

### **Resolutions to Liberal International Congress**

We are planning to submit resolutions to the next Liberal International Congress, which will take place in October 2000. All members of INLW can submit draft resolutions. The draft resolutions will be circulated among INLW members for possible amendments, approval or rejection after consideration by the Board of management. The draft resolutions must reach us before June 1st 2000.

### **Tarja Halonen: première femme élue Présidente en Finlande**

Le lundi 7 février, avec un score de 51.6% des voix, bien supérieur à celui de la gauche réunie, Tarja Halonen a été élue Présidente de la République de Finlande. La ministre sociale-démocrate des affaires étrangères a recueilli les suffrages de nombre d'électorats de droite. Militante des droits de minorités ethniques et sexuelles, ancienne juriste des syndicats, femme de caractère, elle a axé sa campagne sur la défense de l'Etat Providence "à la nordique", de la justice et de la solidarité sociales.

*(source "Le Monde" 7-02-00)*

### **Optional Protocol to the CEDAW convention: its ratification**

The Protocol contains two procedures: a communication procedure allowing individual women, or groups of women, to submit claims of violations of rights to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and an inquiry procedure enabling the committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women rights. In either case, the States must be party to the Protocol.

As of 29 February 2000, only 28 countries have signed the Protocol: Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands,

Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia and Sweden.

### **La parité entrera en vigueur des les élections municipales de 2001**

Aux élections municipales de 2001 (en France), les partis politiques devront bel et bien inscrire autant de femmes que d 'hommes sur leurs listes, a une candidature preso "L' écart entre le nombre de candidats de chaque sexe est au plus égal a un", pour tenir compte du nombre éventuellement impair des sieges a pourvoir. (*source "Le Monde"*)

### **International support for Women's Groups**

Following groups can provide with financial help for women's groups:

**Global Fund for Women**, has distributed more than \$ 10 million to women's groups around the world who are working for change:

425 Sherman Avenue, Suite 300

Palo Alto, California 94306-1823 USA

Phone (650) 8538305/ Fax: (650) 8530384

e-mail: [gf@globalfundorwomen.org](mailto:gf@globalfundorwomen.org)/

[www.globalfundorwomen.org](http://www.globalfundorwomen.org)

**Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights**, provides immediate financial support for opportunities to advance the human rights of women:

PO Box 1138

Fairfax, California 94978-1138 USA

Phone: (415) 406 0571/ Fax: (415) 460 6667

e-mail: [urgentact@aol.com](mailto:urgentact@aol.com)

### **Publications**

**Sex and Medicine**, Gender, Power and Authority in the Medical Profession. by Rosemary Pringle. Griffith University. Queensland. 1998

Professional medicine has often been seen as a field that discriminates against women as doctors and patients. Yet women are entering medicine in increasing numbers. This book explores the position of women in the medical profession in Australia and in the UK, asking the key question "Do women doctors make a difference?".

Pringle employs a distinctive theoretical approach, but writes accessibly and with insight about a profession that is slowly being transformed. She notes the success of women in entering medicine and describes the ways in which they have challenged medical authority and practice.