

News Line 2

October 1998

CONGRATULATIONS

Since our last Newsletter, several INLW members have achieved new offices and recognition. We would like first to congratulate:

Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, who has been elected President of the European Union 's Economic and Social Committee. She is the Committee's first woman President. We are very proud that she is an INLW member and take this opportunity to thank her for her lifelong support for women's voice in Liberal International.

Congratulations also to:

Eileen Bell now a Member of the New Northern Ireland Assembly

Mobina Jaffer now President of the National Women's Liberal Commission Canada

Willy Stigter-Gonggryp who has been made Ridder of the Netherlands Order of Orange-Nassau.

Monique de Vries MP now a Netherlands Secretary of State for Water Ways and Transport.

Dr Barbro Westerholm MP, re-elected as member of the Swedish Parliament, together with a new Liberal colleague Helena Bargholtz.

Emmi Weiss has drawn INLW attention to the work of **Dr Hildegaard Hamm-Brucher**, a distinguished German Liberal who has held local and national political office, including ministerial office in education, cultural affairs and foreign affairs. She chairs the Theodor Heuss Foundation. Dr Hamm-Brucher strongly supports women's entry into politics and our need to work together. Please let us know about your own political offices or about other women Liberals we should honour.

INLW Status with Liberal International

INLW currently holds Observer status with Liberal International. In order to apply for full membership, we needed to recruit ten group members. It is a great pleasure to report that we have eleven group members so far:

ANDORRA: Associació de Dones Liberals (Partit Liberal d'Andorra)

ANGOLA: Accao das Mulheres Liberais Democraticas (Partido Liberal Democratico Angolano)

CANADA: National Women's Liberal Commission (Liberal Party of Canada)

ESTONIA: Women's Reform Club (Estonia Reform Party)

FINLAND: The Center Women (Center Party of Finland)

ICELAND: Women's Group (Framsoknarflekkurim)

ISRAEL: Women's Group (Shinui, the Centre Party)

NETHERLANDS: Vrouwen in de VVD (Dutch Liberal Party)

SENEGAL: Federation Nationale des Femmes Liberales (Parti Democratique Senegalais)

SWEDEN: Folkspartei Liberalema Kvinnoforbund (Liberal Party)

UNITED KINGDOM: Women Liberal Democrats (Liberal Democrats Party)

INLW Meeting

Our next Meeting will be 4th March 1999 in Brussels, the day before the Liberal International Congress. The Congress runs from 5th-7th March and its theme is Globalisation and the Nation State.

Estonian Women's Visit to UK Liberal Democrat Conference

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy funded a visit of five women from Estonia to the Liberal Democrat Conference this September. The delegation was led by our Vice Chair, Dr Valve KIRSIPUU MP. Valve will report on this visit at our next meeting in Brussels. We are delighted that INLW was able to help members in this way.

Female Genital Mutilation

Dr Martina GREDLER, MP in the Austrian Parliament and Treasurer of Liberal International, is using the Austrian Presidency of the European Union to run Workshops to have threat of female genital mutilation recognized as a reason for granting asylum to refugees. We have written sending INLW support for this campaign. Please write to your MPs and MEPs urging their support.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

The next CSW meeting will run from 1-19 March 1999 in New York. One week will be devoted to Beijing Plus Five, the interim meeting before the next world conference on women. Two weeks will be spent on the topics "women's health" and "institutions which help the advancement of women". Those of us attending the Liberal International Congress will have to miss the first week.

Please let us know if you want to join the INL W delegation: we are allowed 5 places and so far Emmi Weiss and Elizabeth Sidney are going.

We still hope to produce INL W position papers for the CSW themes. More news on this later.

ELDR

The Liberal Democratic and Reform Parties group in the European Parliament has been developing an election programme for the 1999 European Parliament elections covering the economy (strengthening competitiveness; revising taxation and social welfare systems, promoting sustainable development); democracy (empowering the citizens, civil rights and civil order, improving the representative capacity of the Union) and security (co-ordinating security measures; strengthening the UN Security Council, setting norms for international relations).
Contact: Secretariat 55C54, rue Wiertzstraat, B-1047 Brussels.

Domestic Violence

The UK government is committed to developing a national strategy on violence against women. The Women's Aid Federation has published "Families without Fear" with recommendations from Nicola Harwin which extend those in her contribution to our booklet. Elizabeth Sidney has sent INLW support for the WAF recommendations to Baroness Jay, UK Minister for Women.

PUBLICATIONS

Members may be interested in the following publications:

Gender Mainstreaming. A Council of Europe publication, Strasbourg, 1998. Provides a conceptual framework, methodology and presentation of good practices.

The authors describe their work as oriented to "stimulate the various policy actors...to initiate concrete actions in the field of gender mainstreaming and to facilitate their initiatives". Gender mainstreaming is defined as "the (re)organisations, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages."

Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers, IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance), Stockholm, 1998.

The book looks beyond the numbers of women in parliament in the world, to describe some of the "most pertinent mechanisms and strategies women can use to impact on policies and political processes" .

It is described as a reference book for politicians "an excellent training manual and text book".

Reminder INLW uses Internet

Please look for INLW on our Liberal International website.

<http://www.worldlib.org/>