

### **News Line 3**

December 1998

#### **Prize for Freedom 1998**

At the meeting of the Liberal International Executive (Interlaken, Switzerland, November 1998), President Frits **Bolkestein** presented the 1998 Prize for Freedom to Khalida Messaoudi nominated by INLW. He paid tribute to her eighteen years' fight for women's equal rights and courageous denouncement of abuses perpetrated alike by the Algerian army and fundamentalist islamic groups. In a moving reply, Khalida accepted the prize as an honour for all Algerian women victims of persecution, torture, rape and murder.

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

INL W was represented at Interlaken by Elizabeth Sidney, Marie Therese Bianchi and Emmi Weiss. The Executive passed a resolution on Augusto Pinochet, supporting of the Spanish government's request for extradition and urging the establishment of an International Criminal Court. It also declared its compassion for the victims of hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua and urged speedy and generous international aid.

Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroek, MEP and Deputy-President from LI presented the 1999 Congress Theme Resolution, "Globalisation and the Future of the Nation-State" .

#### **50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights**

On December 10, 1948, governments signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming the rights of all to "life, liberty and the security of person...without distinction of any kind" *We still have much to do!*

#### **INL W General Meeting 1999**

Please note the next INLW General Meeting is Wednesday 3 March 9.30-16.00, in Brussels. The Liberal International Congress opens on the evening of March 3 and concludes March 5.

#### **Constitution change**

Members have been consulted regarding changes to timing of elections of the Officers and Management Board. The A options concerned elections every 18 months and eligibility for re-election; the B options concerned elections every 3 years and eligibility for re-election. Results:

A1	A2	B1	B2
0%	25%	17%	58%

Preference for Option B2 means that elections will be held every 3 years and that officers and Management Board members are eligible for one re-election.

The next elections will therefore be at the year 2000 General Meeting. In March 1999, members will be asked to ratify this Constitutional change.

#### **Dutch Women's Movement addressed the United Nations'**

Tine van der Stroom van Ewijk represented the women's movement in the Netherlands delegation to the 53rd session of the Assembly of the United Nations. In her speech, she pointed out that only 50% of UN member states have produced national plans for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. The Dutch project "Opportunity 2000" has set targets for women's participation at all levels in businesses, organisations, universities and government departments to reach 25% to 30%. On violence, she reminded the General Assembly that women's economic dependence was a major cause of violence and called for priority adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

#### **Women's Hall of Freedom**

The Interlaken programme included a visit to the Hall of Freedom at the summit of the Jungfrauoch. One hundred past Liberals are honoured there, selected from world wide nominations. INLW noted that only 9 women are included.

We would like to discuss, at the next General Meeting, setting up an Honours List of women who have fought in the past for women's rights and liberal values.

### **UN Commission on the Status of Women**

The INLW delegation now has three members: Elizabeth Sidney, Emmi Weiss and Jeannine de Bocard. Please let Elizabeth know before mid-December if you would like to take up one of the two remaining places.

### **Venezuela: Mujeres celebraron el día de la No Violencia**

En los jardines del Congreso de la República se reunieron para festejar el día Mundial de la No Violencia en Venezuela. Este año es de regocijo mayor, puesto que se promulgó en el Congreso la Ley sobre la Violencia contra la Mujer y la Familia. Esta legislación, que entrará en vigencia a partir del 1º de enero de 1999, garantiza que todo acto que vulnera física, psicológica o sexualmente a una mujer dejara de ser un abuso legitimado por la costumbre para convertirse en un delito, rechazado por la sociedad y castigado con prisión o multa. (from 'El Nacional', 26 Noviembre 1998)

### **European Parliament**

In June 1999, the 15 member states will elect its representatives to the European Parliament. INLW hopes that the Liberal women's representation in the European Parliament will significantly increase.

### **Publications**

**Equality and Democracy**, final report of activities of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1996.

The Committee has made a theoretical and political study of the linkages between the concept of democracy, on the one hand, and the demand for real equality between women and men on the other, taking into account the principle of universality of human rights and the concept of parity democracy. The group has concentrated its work on the representation of women in political life, considering that it constitutes the most prominent indicator of equality between women and men, and the sharing of powers in decision-making structures.

**Manual de los Partidos Políticos de América Latina**, publicación del Parlamento Latinoamericano y del Instituto de Relaciones Europeo-Latinoamericanas (IRELA), Madrid 1997. Las profundas transformaciones que han tenido lugar en los últimos años en América Latina también han afectado el panorama de los partidos políticos. El objetivo del *Manual de los Partidos Políticos* es de aportar información actualizada, integral y práctica que permita identificar los actores fundamentales de la democracia latinoamericana.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

FELICES FIESTAS

MEILLEURS VOEUX