

## News Line 6

June 1999

### **Bruno Lacelle: wins INLW logo competition**

This Newsline is printed with our new logo. The winner of the competition, Bruno Lacelle, is a graphic designer who graduated from the University of Quebec. He is member of the political staff of the Liberal Party Canada. Thanks Bruno, the logo is great.

### **European Parliament Elections: Liberal Women gains**

Our warmest congratulations to the following Liberal women who have been elected to the European Parliament

**Belgium:** Annemie **Neyts-Uyttebroeck**, Deputy President of Liberal International and Patron of INL W, has been reelected MEP. She led the list of VLD for the elections of the European Parliament and obtained 152729 preferential votes to her name. The Belgian Liberals became the largest political force in their country.

**Denmark:** Lone Dybkjer (Det Radikale Venstre)

**Finland:** Astrid Thors (Svenska Folkpartiet)

**Netherlands:** Elly Plooij-van Gosel, Marieke Sanders ten Holte (VV) and Lousewies van der Laan (D66).

**Sweden:** Marit Paulsen and Cecilia Malmstrom (Folkpartiet Liberalema)

**United Kingdom:** Baroness Sarah Ludford, Liz Lynne, Baroness Emma Nicholson and Diana Wallis (Liberal Democrats). .

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SHINUI!**

Shinui was not a well-known party before the Israeli elections, but it made a good impact, gaining 6 seats in the Knesset. One seat was gained by Judith Naot, a Professor of Medicine; she plans to put women's health among her priorities. Overall, women's representation in the Knesset rose from 7.5% to 11.7%.

### **INLW Welcomes our 15th Group Member!**

The Women's Group from the Civic United Front from Tanzania has joined INLW. We are glad to welcome them, and their Secretary General Elizabeth Kasembe.

### **PANAMA ELIGE SU PRIMERA MUJER PRESIDENTE**

Mireya Moscoso la viuda del Presidente Arnulfo Arias fue elegida Presidente de la República de Panamá con 45 % de los votos. Ella derrotó Martín Torrijos, hijo de un ex-dictador de Panamá. Mireya Moscoso deberá asumir el pasaje del canal de Panamá del control americano al control panameño, en virtud del acuerdo de 1977, entre los Estados Unidos y Panamá.

### **Congratulations to Eve de Roo van Alderwerelt and Willy Sitgter**

The Board of "Vrouwen in VVD" (the Dutch Liberal Women Organisation) has honoured two of its members with the Margreet Kamp award, Eve de Roo van Alderwerelt and Willy Stigter. This award is given to women who by their commitment and work have greatly contributed to the advancement of women's rights. This award consists of a pin and a certificate. Ineke van Ark, Chair of Women in VVD, pinned them on and hoped this pin will be worn often by both. Eve and Willy, who are members of INL W, without doubt have deserved the distinction.

### **Commission on Human Rights**

Jeannine de Bocard has sent a report on the 55th session of the Commission (Geneva, March-April 1999). Members unanimously condemned Milosevic's ethnic cleansing policy and voiced strong support for the strengthening of UNHCR, as requested by the High Commissioner for Refugees.

A special session was held on the Human Rights of Women. The value of mainstreaming was stressed, promoting the need to include a gender perspective when implementing the mechanisms for human rights. A further session urged all states to sign, ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It specifically called for eradication of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and condemned the use of children as soldiers and as exploited labour

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*Some statistics*

**120 million:** The estimated number of women and young girls around the world who have undergone some form of female genital mutilation.

**2 million:** The number of girls aged between five and 15 that are introduced to prostitution every year.

**585 000:** The estimated number of women who die each year from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, one every minute.

(Source: *Time*, April 1999)

#### *Uganda Leader opposes Female Genital Mutilation*

The President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has urged the people of Uganda to improve the reproductive health of women by ceasing the practice of FGM. Since the introduction of the Reproductive, Education and Community Health (REACH) program - which discourages FGM- in the district of Kapchorwa, FGM was reduced by 36% from 1994 to 1996.

#### *Domestic violence in Turkey*

Violence against women is a problem in Turkey as it is anywhere in the world. A report published by Advocacy Network for Women, a Turkish NGO, cites several studies that underscore the extent of spousal abuse indicating that 22 percent of Turkish women are exposed to physical violence by their husbands.

#### **E-mail Directory**

We would like to have an e-mail directory, to appear in our Web page. If you have an e-mail address please send it to us. You can consult OUT Web page at the following address <http://www.worldlib.org/inlw>

Send us your news for publications in Newsline, it is your Newsline.

#### **Publications**

**Women in Politics.** IPU Geneva 1999.

The Interparliamentary Union has published a world bibliography of women in politics. It includes references to publications and documents issued by global or regional organisations, references to publications by experts and research workers in different countries and references to several Internet sites. The material relates to national or federal level politics, and has mostly been published since 1985. Preference has been given to material which is generally available.

**Risks, Rights and Reforms.** WEDO (Women's Environment and Development Organisation) March 1999.

It is a substantial report on progress in 50 countries in the 5 years since the International Conference on Population and Development. The report draws on material from both governmental and NGO sources. It finds some positive advances in promoting reproductive and sexual health, including improved sex education. In other spheres, it finds deterioration: economic and reform measures (such as fees for public health services) have eroded women's access to basic health services. A number of countries have reported on the serious damage to women's reproductive systems caused by exposure to pesticides and other chemicals, with little being done to address the problems.