

ICW – CIF Newsletter 51

Special issue on the Commission on the Status of Women 57

International Council of Women		
Conseil International des Femmes		Consejo Internacional de Mujeres
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<u>Table of contents</u>	
1. Editorial	9. Eunice Mijangos
2. Iryna Kurowyckyj	10. Liudmila Yakovleva and Anna Kalmatskaya
3. Reports from Elisabeth Newman	11. Leysa Yurchyshyn
4. Monica Tolman	12. Theresa Der-Yan and Chin-Yen Chen
5. Brigitte Polonovski	13. Jocelyn Huang
6. Carmen Gloria Arriagada	14. Emmy Galama
7. Christiane Tricot	15. Chularat Israngkool Na Ayutthaya
8. Tamra Raven	16. Esther R. Suter
	17. Conclusion

Editorial



Message to the ICW delegates to the CSW57

Let me first send you all my warm greetings and my congratulations for having being able to attend the CSW 57.

Thanks to your commitment ICW is proud to be visible among the numerous women's organizations that want again and again to let hear their voice for a better status of women around the world.

ICW was founded in 1888 in Washington and is the oldest international women's organization. In 125 years progress in matter of Equality and Dignity has been made in many countries. In 1948 when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Gender Equality was universally accepted and signed by the members of the United Nations of that time.

Women's movements now realize that the concept of Gender Equality is far not accepted by

numerous of new members of the international community.

Inequality leads to violence.

The so called « Cultural Exception » and the balance of power between men and women are still characterized by male domination which is just not acceptable.

Indeed, no country in the world respects gender equality as it was defined in the Convention of Elimination and Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). That means that the struggle for equality and human dignity continues for women's organizations.

The CSW in general gives the opportunity for more than 400 women's organizations to meet. Along the years the target might not be reached and the results are definitely not always tangible year after year. However I should bluntly ask this question: are we really conscious of this immense privilege to meet and exchange our ideas and share our experiences? Again, my question is: are we really making the best out of this opportunity which is given to us?

The themes of the CSW turn always around the same topics: equality, human's rights for women, respect and dignity for women, governmental

financing resources for caring for women as care givers, for maternity protection and access to property and other legal rights among others.

All those problems affect the society as diverse as it might be.

This long term struggle for a better life for all which seems to be a rational objective faces however always the same obstacles.

Why after so many years, women's movements don't have a real impact on the outcomes of the Commission? Women's claims remain helpless. Women's voices are not heard. In the United States it took 100 years to realize the Equality of races from Lincoln to Kennedy. How many years more women will need to reach this status? In many States' Constitutions the principle of equal rights is mentioned but in reality it is not implemented in the legislations.

I note that some of our sister organizations invite men as guests speakers. This is one of the ways to convince our male partners of the relevance of our cause.

With my warm regards,

Cosima Schenk
ICW President

ICW expresses its gratitude to **Iryna Kurowyckyj** who participated in the organisation of the ICW workshop as our UN Permanent Representative. She attended on our behalf several side events of other

organisations and made possible the reception hosted by **Marianna Zajac**, President of the National Council Ukraine. We would like to thank Mrs Marianna Zajac for her generous hospitality

REPORT ON 57th COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

New York 4th – 15th March 2013

By **Elisabeth Newman**

Priority Theme: *Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*

Review Theme: *The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS*

Emerging Theme: *Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post 2015 development framework.*

(...)

ICW-CIF delegates met for a briefing on Sunday evening 3rd March. It was good to also welcome delegates from NCs with ECSOC status, viz. Korea, GB and USA and others joined us during the two weeks of CSW; there was good

comradeship between us all. Following the briefing we joined the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and World Federation of Ukrainian Women Organisations for a reception marking the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the WFUWO and 10th Anniversary since they were granted ECOSOC status; also the 125th Anniversary of ICW-CIF was celebrated.

At the Opening of CSW the Chair of the CSW Bureau, H.E. Ms. Marjon Karmara said the Commission had a mandate to create a world without Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and with equality and peace. This was the focus of the next two weeks' deliberations.

As head of the ICW-CIF delegation most of the first week I was occupied by attending parallel events organised by affiliated National Councils, viz. Korea, USA and Canada and, all importantly, our event entitled "Respect for Women, Equality for All" which was well facilitated by Monica Tolman, the ICW-CIF Co-ordinator for the Status of Women Standing Committee. Brigitte Polonovski, ICW-CIF Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva spoke about violence & the situation for women and girls in Europe, mentioning two new important instruments, the Istanbul Convention and the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty. Esther Eghobamien, Interim Director and Head of Gender, Social Transformation Programmes Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, spoke of the situation in Commonwealth countries where the instance of violence tends to be high. It was gratifying to see the room full to capacity at 8.30 a.m. with at least 70 participants representing some 23 countries. From the warmth in the room and comments received later, the parallel event was very well received. (Proceedings will be lodged on the website). At the Korean NCW event which focused on Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls in Asia-Pacific, I read a statement, relating to violence, from President Cosima Schenk and referred to it at the Reception held by NCW USA to mark the 125th anniversary of the ICW-CIF and NCW USA. The President of the NCW Ukraine delivered a paper on violence as did a member from the NCW in Guatemala at the NCW USA event. I also attended all other events co-sponsored by ICW-CIF and where affiliated organisations were speaking. The National Council from FYROM delivered a paper about Safe Cities at a Huairou Commission event. (...) In between these events I was able to attend a

few others including an interesting one sponsored by the USA Mission supporting the UNite campaign; all speakers were male. UN Women Australia also held an interesting session on the Saturday at which Elizabeth Broderick, the Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Major General David Morrison, Chief of the Army, were two of the participants.

The second week I devoted more time attending sessions run by the Commission e.g. listening to the reports of the State Missions on what their respective countries are doing to end VAWG. (...) When I left New York it was still extremely uncertain a consensus would be met regarding the Agreed Conclusions. Earlier in the week the Washington Post reported, for the first time ever, on CSW and named certain States who were against women gaining equality and having rights to sexual and reproductive health care.

There was quite a different atmosphere this year this, too, was felt by colleagues who have attended CSW for a number of years. The vibrancy of previous years was lacking. Attending the morning briefings one sensed there was more control over the information we were fed and able to glean. The various caucus meetings, from the general NGO perspective, were very limited; there was minimal to no reporting at the morning briefings; they were almost invisible except for the North America/European Caucus which was the only one to report regularly. This matter was raised at a morning briefing towards the end of CSW. Yet, at an Australian Government debriefing held back in Australia, it was reported by an NGO delegate in the Government delegation that contact with the caucuses had been most useful. It appears caucuses had been reporting to the Mission delegations but not to the NGOs for lobbying around the Agreed Conclusions; sadly a definite breakdown in an important information chain. This same delegate felt there was not the same degree of contact, as in previous years, between the Government delegations and the NGOs (...)

This year there were many more young people also more men taking an active part which was seen as a positive.

Now thoughts are on the post 2015 goals but there is much hard work to be done to rid the world of discrimination and violence against women and girls. Each one of us needs to monitor our respective governments' implementation of the

Agreed Conclusions. Lack of political will was often cited as a cause of violence continuing. We must ensure governments do have the political will to end all forms of Discrimination and Violence against Women and Girls.

I would like to thank all who supported ICW-CIF's participation at CSW57, particularly the

ICW-CIF accredited delegates and those accredited via other means who did much to make ICW-CIF's presence felt and the programme a success. It was an honour to represent ICW-CIF in its 125th year.

Elisabeth Newman

ICW-CIF Vice President April 2013



Elisabeth Newman and Theresa Der-Lan

REPORT ON UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 57, NEW YORK, MARCH 2013. THEME: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

By Monica Tolman, Hon. Vice President and Delegate NCWGB.

INTRODUCTION

This CSW was characterized by the unity of the 3,000 women from over 250 organisations attending; their anger at the rising tide of violence against women and girls experienced around the world and their absolute determination that this must stop. The women and girls attending were of one mind - that women should stand up to these

atrocities, demand to be heard and take action to end the violence.

There was no disagreement that the problems were universal; experienced in all faith groups and countries and were the result of inequality between men and women. Patriarchal societies where men owned the power and authority resulted in the ill-treatment of women and girls, especially in relation to the ownership of female bodies and sexuality. Tradition and culture were usually cited as the basis of such ill-treatment.

Other National Councils held workshops including the Korean NCW, NCW USA, and NCW Canada. ...

FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Some forms of VAW&G are local to particular regions of the world – abortion of female fetuses, food and medicine deprivation in favour of sons, lack of education (especially higher education) are some examples. Other forms of violence – Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage, Forced Marriage, Domestic Violence and trafficking occur everywhere. (We might also cite pornography, prostitution and the media abuse of female bodies in all forms of advertising as other examples of VAW&G in our societies).

THEMES

There were over 280 workshops held by NGO's in the first week of CSW57. In the workshops I attended the following Themes constantly recurred:

1. **Need for legislation:** implementation of legislation: training of the enforcers of legislation. It was agreed that Legislation was the first step in stopping VAW&G. The Nigerian delegation complained that their Violence Against Women Act (soon to be signed) had been amended to Violence Against Persons Act although 90% of victims are women. NB On March 7th President Obama at last signed the US Violence Against Women Act. NGOs agreed that it was their responsibility to see that legislation is enforced by 'standing up and being heard' The watchwords were Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Punishment. There should be no Impunity for violent offences.
2. **Documentation,** recording of evidence and reporting of atrocities. Great emphasis was given to the need to document, record and supply evidence of atrocities as otherwise legal redress cannot be sought. An example was

given of an African village where money had been raised to supply all girls with cell phones to both record rapes and assaults and raise the alarm quickly. This was reducing the numbers of attacks.

3. **The Role of the Media** and social media in raising awareness of VAW&G.

The Delhi Rape Case and Malalla's shooting were widely discussed. It was agreed that global publicity had raised public anger and demand for action. A letter from Malalla was read by Susan Sarandon at the IWD March. NB an African Union workshop which I attended said that there were thousands of cases of rape and shootings in Africa which the media did not report and asked 'why not?'

4. **The Role of Men and Boys** in helping us stop VAW&G. It was commonly agreed that women and girls need the help of men and boys in tackling the scourge of VAW&G. About 5% of delegates were male and all were highly supportive of the education and training of boys in non-violent relationships and the need to recruit right-thinking males to the cause. Fathers, brothers and sons need to be involved. An example of the brother of an African girl who had persuaded his parents not to inflict FGM on his sister was a notable example.

CONCLUSION

Although the Theme of CSW57 was particularly distressing, the commitment of those attending inspired confidence in a better future. The phrase 'a promise is a promise' was widely quoted and it was clear that women's NGOs are determined that the promise to end VAW&G will be kept.

CSW57

Interactive Workshop held on the 5 March 2013.

« Respect for Women and Girls: Equality for All »

organized by the International Council of Women with the National Council of Women of Great Britain, the National Council of the United States and the Korean National Council of Women.

Extracts from the presentation of **Brigitte Polonovski**, Senior Adviser Violence against Women and Girls and ICW-CIF Representative to the UN in Geneva.

The session of the UN commission on the Status of Women is focusing this year on prevention of violence against women while there is the ongoing UN global campaign UNite to combat violence against women worldwide.

Every day in Europe women fall victim to violence, they are stalked, harassed, raped, mutilated, forced by their family to enter into a marriage, sterilised against their will or psychologically and physically abused in the « safety » of their own homes. The examples of violence are endless, its victims countless. Many women are afraid or ashamed to seek help, often paying for their silence with their lives. Those that do speak out are not always heard. DV is another form of violence that is far too common and that affects not only women, but men, children and the elderly as well.

(...)

To make Europe a continent with zero tolerance for VAW and DV and a safe place for all, the Council of Europe (47 countries) has, in April 2011, adopted the first European legally-binding instrument; the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, called the Istanbul Convention.

We may recall that for a long time VAW and especially domestic violence was treated as a private matter and was a hidden reality of women's lives. For the first time the Istanbul Convention explicitly defines VAW as a human rights violation and a form of discrimination against women. It is a great change because the normal understanding was until then that VAW is a « human rights issue ».

The CEDAW Convention is a women's bill of rights, a women's development instrument and a women's empowerment instrument. It provides a broad definition of discrimination against women which includes both direct and indirect discrimination in the public and in the private sphere that should be prohibited by States Parties. This includes an obligation to modify or abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women (art.2,f).

The Convention requires States to eliminate private conduct detrimental to women and renders States liable if they fail. States are responsible for acts of private persons if they do not prevent or prosecute such acts of individuals. It addresses also discrimination in all areas of life including family matters. (...)

Briefly let me mention that the Organization of American States adopted in 1994 the first legally-binding convention to combat VAW; the Inter-American convention on the prevention, punishment and eradication of VAW (Convention Belem Do Para) which recognises the rights of women to be free from violence in the public and the private sphere, and distinguishes the fact that VAW is a human rights violation. Also the African Union in 2003 adopted the Protocol on the rights of women in Africa to the African Charter on Human Rights. It explicitly calls for the protection of women against violence in public and private life.

Now we have this European Convention. It was the result of the Council of Europe Campaign on VAW, carried out in all 47 member States, which revealed the magnitude of this problem. At the end of the campaign a task force was established which recommended the adoption of a convention. (...)

There is an immense gap between what the law provides and what happens in reality. In all legal systems, penal law forbids violence. But it is not enough because VAW has special characteristics which makes it particularly difficult to detect. It hides in the private sphere where the law has difficult access; it is moving and able to escape controls.

We have to change all mentalities To quote Seneca *"It is not because things are difficult that we don't dare, it's because we don't dare that things are difficult"*

At its 21st session in September 2012, the UN HR

Council in Geneva adopted by consensus this document and during its 67th session, the UN General Assembly noted with appreciation these guidelines. It concludes an investment of more than 25 years. In a certain way the content can be compared to national contemporary legislation such as the Law on exclusion in France from 1988 or similar legislation in Canada but this time the principles and norms are laid down in a UN document. (...)

The two issues, combating violence against women and eradicating extreme poverty, are two

priority goals of the MDGs. In fact these same issues ought to be part of the Post 2015 programme. We will need all our energies and tools to make sure that those issues will be taken seriously. We all want to work for a better world for our children which means, without a doubt, equality between women and men and eradication of violence against women and girls.

Brigitte Polonovski



CSW57 DENUNCIA Y REGULA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LA MUJER

Carmen Gloria Arriagada,

Representante de la Junta Directiva de ICW – CIF, Representante Permanente de ICW ante las Naciones Unidas in Nueva York
Abril de 2013

En mi calidad de delegada de ICW – CIF ante la Comisión sobre la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer en su sesión 57, tuve el privilegio de presenciar más de 10 programas en el marco de CSW57 sobre el tema de la violencia contra la mujer organizados bajo el co-patrocinio de ICW – CIF o de sus organizaciones afiliadas.

(...)

Entre los diversos miembros de ICW – CIF que concurrieron a CSW57, se cuenta la destacada presencia de Jung-Sook Kim, Presidenta del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Corea y Primera Vice-Presidenta de la Junta Directiva de ICW – CIF. (...) La cálida presencia de la Dra. Kim, aunada a la presencia de Elisabeth Newman y de Monica Tolman, contribuyo en gran medida a reforzar entre nosotras un profundo sentido de unidad y cohesión dentro del contexto de gran diversidad de geografías y razas que caracteriza a nuestra organización.

CSW57 marcó un hito en muchos sentidos. Cabe destacar en forma especial la notable participación de un elevado número de representantes de ICW - CIF provenientes de dos de nuestros Consejos Nacionales de América Latina, a quienes tuvimos el honor y el privilegio de recibir en las Naciones Unidas. Tengo a bien referirme específicamente a la distinguida participación de Ana Maria

Valladares de Goyzueta, Presidenta del Consejo Regional de las Americas de ICW, Maria Elena de Cabarrus, Presidenta del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Guatemala, Heyde Lopez Duran, Presidenta del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia, Eunice Mijangos, Representante del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Guatemala, y Marina Alejos, Representante del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Guatemala, a quienes tuve sumo agrado de dar la bienvenida a la ciudad de Nueva York y a las actividades de CSW57 a nombre de la Junta Directiva de ICW - CIF. (...) Eunice compartió con valentía y honestidad su impactante testimonio personal sobre la violencia contra la mujer, e invitó a todas las mujeres a usar su gran fortaleza y poder internos, rechazando situaciones de victimización, y poniendo freno y término radical a la tendencia de recibir y aceptar violencia en sus vidas. (...) Por otra parte, en apoyo a las actividades organizadas por representantes del Consejo Regional de las Américas (CRA - RCA), y conjuntamente con representantes (...) del Consejo Nacional de

Mujeres de Canadá, cuyo consejo también forma parte integral del CRA. Dicho programa incluía la participación especial de Nazila Isgandarova, destacada investigadora y consejera pastoral de multireligión, en calidad de principal analista y oradora y de Mary Scott, ex Presidenta del Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Canadá.

Como nota final, me complace señalar que tuve el honor de estar presente en la reunión de culminación de CSW57 el día 15 de marzo, en cuya oportunidad fue aceptado y firmado, con muy leves modificaciones, el texto de las Conclusiones Acordadas de CSW57, decisión que fue recibida con una salva de aplausos por parte de los delegados que llenaban la sala. (...) Quisiéramos manifestar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a la Señora Bachelet por el legado ejemplar que ha dejado tras de sí para todas nosotras en ONU Mujeres, y desearle un gran triunfo en su campaña presidencial.

Carmen Gloria Arriagada

Rapport de Christiane Tricot sur la 57^{ème} Session de la Commission du Statut de la Femme – New York

La 57^{ème} Session de la Commission du Statut de la Femme, qui s'est déroulée aux Nations Unies, à New York, du 4 au 15 mars 2013, avait pour thème : « L'élimination et la prévention de toutes formes de violences contre les femmes et les filles ».

Le CNFF m'a désignée pour le représenter. Comme les années précédentes, j'ai été accréditée par le Conseil International des Femmes.

La question des violences concerne toutes les sociétés mais, dans certaines circonstances, elle se pose avec une acuité toute particulière : en cas de guerre, les violences sexuelles sont souvent utilisées comme armes de guerre et de destruction. Des viols nombreux sont commis en République démocratique du Congo, au Soudan, au Mali... Le

fait même qu'il existe des enfants soldats constitue une violence en tant que tel. Dans d'autres pays, tels la Syrie, l'Égypte, la situation d'insécurité génère un niveau très élevé de violences sexuelles. Même en l'absence de tout conflit, les femmes n'échappent pas aux violences sexuelles atroces : l'Inde a été citée maintes fois.

C'est sur la base de cette constatation, que le Conseil International des Femmes (CIF/ICW) a organisé deux évènements parallèles, tout à fait remarquables et qui ont attirés un public très nombreux.

Le thème principal était « Respect pour les femmes et pour les filles : égalité pour toutes ».

Il a été souligné que la violence à l'encontre des femmes et des filles constitue une forme de discrimination fondée sur le sexe et est une manifestation de pouvoirs inégaux qui ont existé, de tout temps, entre les hommes et les femmes.

Il s'agit d'une violation des droits fondamentaux.

L'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes ne peut se réaliser que si les femmes sont dans une situation, qui leur assure l'autonomie financière et politique. Elles doivent aussi avoir accès aux droits à la santé, à la protection de leurs droits sexuels et reproductifs. Il est demandé également une meilleure protection contre le VIH-SIDA.

Il existe de nombreux instruments juridiques, aux niveaux international et régional, qui imposent aux États, de lutter contre les violences faites aux femmes, qu'il s'agisse de traités internationaux relatifs aux droits humains ou de textes plus spécifiques, concernant la sanction et l'élimination de la violence contre les femmes. De nombreux pays ont adopté des lois spécifiques, pour instaurer l'égalité hommes-femmes, et pour permettre de lutter et de réprimer les violences faites aux femmes. (...)

Diverses conventions protègent les femmes de tous horizons, quels que soient leur âge, leur race, leur religion, leur origine sociale. Elle reconnaît que certains groupes de femmes, de filles sont plus exposés à des actes de violence : les migrantes, les femmes demandeurs d'asile. (...)

De plus, les infractions pénales ne peuvent trouver de justifications à raison d'actes de violences, commis en application de la culture, de la coutume, de la tradition ou du prétendu honneur (crimes d'honneur).

Au cours des travaux réalisés par le Conseil International des femmes, un appel a été lancé, pour que les participants agissent, chacun et chacune, dans son pays, pour obtenir la ratification de la Convention d'Istanbul.

Enfin, les États non-européens pourront adhérer à la convention, après son entrée en vigueur.

L'impact des catastrophes naturelles sur les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles

Ces ateliers ont été conduits par des représentantes d'O.N.G. japonaises et australiennes.

Les intervenantes ont toutes souligné que, si la violence à l'encontre des femmes et des filles

pouvait être constatée dans tous les milieux, quelle que soit l'origine sociale et culturelle, la pauvreté et l'exclusion constituent des facteurs aggravants. Toutes soulignent que l'autonomie financière constitue pour les femmes et pour les filles, la meilleure garantie, contre les violences.

Cette autonomie leur donne, en effet, la possibilité matérielle d'échapper à leurs tortionnaires.

En ce qui concerne les catastrophes naturelles, les représentants des O.N.G. japonaises et australiennes ont souligné combien l'environnement était un facteur déterminant sur les violences exercées sur les femmes et les filles.

C'est ainsi qu'au Japon, après le triple désastre survenu le 11 mars 2011 : tremblement de terre, tsunami et accident nucléaire de la centrale de Fukushima, il a été constaté une recrudescence des violences faites aux femmes. Cette situation qui est restée jusqu'à maintenant, inaperçue et non dite est hélas bien réelle. Dans les familles endeuillées, déplacées, déstabilisées, les rapports de violences se sont exacerbés et cela au détriment plus particulier des femmes, qui ont perdu leur emploi et se sont retrouvées dans des situations financières précaires.

Les O.N.G. australiennes ont, de leur côté, fait le même constat, après la succession de catastrophes naturelles, que leur pays a connu depuis décembre 2010, qu'il s'agisse d'inondations, de cyclones, ainsi que de tremblements de terre, en ce qui concerne la Nouvelle Zélande.

Dès lors que l'équilibre environnemental est bouleversé, ce qui implique souvent pour les femmes, la perte de leur emploi, la dispersion ou la destruction de la famille, par conséquent, la perte de leur indépendance financière, les violences exercées sur elles et sur les filles se multiplient. Les statistiques présentées sont éloquentes.

Je conclurais ce rapport, par une question à laquelle les O.N.G. représentées aux Nations Unies ont répondu de façon divergente : Faut-il, 20 ans après Pékin en 1995, organiser une

conférence internationale, ayant pour objet de faire le point sur l'exécution du plan d'action, en faveur des femmes, qui a été défini à Pékin ?

La frilosité des O.N.G. qui hésitent à répondre oui vient de ce que les différentes mesures arrêtées à Pékin sont loin d'avoir été mises en œuvre en totalité, et qu'il existe un risque de remise en cause du plan d'action de Pékin.

Il semble que le CIF, à l'occasion d'une réunion de la Commission du Statut de la Femme, qui s'est tenue à Genève, ait plutôt retenu l'option d'une conférence internationale sur la situation des femmes dans le monde.

Christiane Tricot



Collaboration Report: CSW57-NY from 4-14 March 2013

by **Najwa Gadaheldam***(Africa) and **Tamra Engelhorn Raven**** North America)

The UN CSW57 is a CONCENSUS historical bench mark: VAW = Violence against Women.

It was attended by many NGOs, INGOs, CSO, religious leaders, politicians, civil servants, business groups, multilateral donors and multinational organizations as well as developmental banks etc.

(...)

NGOs had no real role so much to play except as lobbying instrument and even that was not widely practiced as they were restricted by the secondary pass to access the areas of the delegates and

member states.

NGOs had no access to the media as part of their restricted role to play.

Some NGOs were part of the official delegation for the first time ever, but the CSW NGO had never invited them to report about the negotiations from their point of view

"The morning briefing despite this was attended by many women, sometimes 100, but still it was lacking substantive discussion and inputs. The NGOs had no strategy on how to address the matter if plan A is failing ... plan B was not there and so suggestions by participants were not taken into consideration and was not welcomed by the briefing organizers. That shows clearly the wheel was only in the hands of the member states-delegates and UN women organizers. In my opinion that was an strategy to keep NGOs out of any negotiations but they act as recipients and so

they were only informed about what is going on, that was evident in caucus meetings."

"Sometimes, NGOs were asked to lobby but that was only at the end of the negotiations when the voice of the opponents becoming loud on the serious issues (Reproductive health and Country's sovereignty). Exit strategy was not negotiated in time and agreed upon and there was no access to media. Regional caucus meeting were poor. Efforts become more personal and communication becoming harder. As a result we realized that the Africa group had split at one point to many regional groups suggested by Malawi after it was discussed in one of the sessions attended by us."

(...)

"In a session of young leaders organized by a group from Mexico, the new generation expressed and explained ways on how they are fighting gangs and creating space for their own activities and safety. The session was well attended and case studies were presented -articulated with clear

strategies very on how to create social space to prevent violence and rape. It was also clear that there is a need to integrate and promote young leaders in the communities."

"US Federation for Middle East Peace had organized a very interesting session *on interfaith dialogue on peace and development including violence against women*. The members of the panel included an Imam from NY Mosque, member of the Catholic Church and the former Ambassador of Iraq to UN as well as a University scholar on women and religion. The members discussed in length the role of faith in the elimination of violence against women as they stated that all are worshipping one God who is calling for good treatment between human being and respect rather than violence. Second they admitted that the faith can play a very positive role in reducing the violence and promoting gender justice but it needs a real leadership." (...)

COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF WOMEN 57 TESTIMONY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BY EUNICE MIJANGOS
MEMBER OF the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
WOMEN OF GUATEMALA

(...)TODAY I AM IN FRONT OF YOU WOMEN FROM ALL DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS IN OUR HANDS TO STOP ANY KIND OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE -- REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG YOU MAY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO IT. NOBODY IS FORCING US TO STAND THE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE THAT IS AFFECTING A GREAT NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THEIR OWN HOMES AROUND THE WORLD TODAY.

I AM A SURVIVOR FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE. I DECIDED TO STOP THIS VIOLENCE. NO MORE BEATINGS, NO MORE HUMILIATION, NO MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE.

WE, AS WOMEN HAVE IMMEASURABLE VALUE: WE FIGHT AND SURMOUNT

EXTREMELY CHALLENGING SITUATIONS; WE WORK HARD TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN; AND ULTIMATELY WE ALWAYS ATTAIN OUR GOALS, SHOWING EVERYBODY AROUND US THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY AND THE STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR LIVES.

I GOT DIVORCED WITH A 3 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AND PREGNANT OF MY SECOND BABY, BOTH OF WHOM I RAISED WITH LOTS OF SACRIFICE AND HARD WORK.

(...)

IN ADDITION TO RAISING A FAMILY, I DEVOTED MYSELF TO STUDYING. I AM A PSYCHOLOGIST, AND ALSO I WILL FINISH MY MASTER'S IN HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION THIS YEAR. I HAVE BEEN PART OF SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO HELP NATIVE, RURAL PEOPLE FIND SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF LIVELIHOOD.

THEREFORE, I ALWAYS ASK MYSELF: WHY DO WE NEED TO BE LIVING IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AND BE SUBJECT TO

PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, AND BE EXPOSED TO THREATS AND LOSS OF FREEDOM?

ABUSE, MISTREATMENT AND INTIMIDATION OF US WOMEN CONSTITUTE SERIOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS.

ALL THESE TYPES OF ABUSE ARE PART OF A PROCESS, ENTAILING SEVERAL STAGES WHEREIN VIOLENCE STARTS ESCALATING: VERBAL AND PHYSICAL AGGRESSION IS FOLLOWED BY SEVERE PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, UP TO REACHING TOTAL DISCONTROL BY OUR PARTNER. THESE CYCLES OF REPETITIVE VIOLENCE ABOUND IN OUR HOMES.

LOTS OF WOMEN REMAIN IN SITUATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF LOVE. THEIR PARTNERS TYPICALLY UTTER REGRET PHRASES, SUCH AS: "SORRY, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN; I PROMISE I WILL CHANGE." THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE ARE REPETITIVE AND BECOME MORE AND MORE SEVERE WITH TIME.

IF WE ARE BEING ABUSED BY OUR PARTNER IN OUR OWN HOMES, PLEASE LET US NOT

SHUT UP. LET'S DENOUNCE VIOLENCE AND OUR PERPETRATORS. WE SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR; THERE ARE LAWS TO PROTECT US.

I SHARE WITH YOU-- WOMEN OF ALL AGES, RELIGIONS, RACE AND SOCIAL CLASS-- PART OF MY LIFE AND SUFFERING EXPERIENCES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT, AND PUT A STOP TO THESE TYPES OF ABUSE.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP ANY KIND OF ABUSE AGAINST US. WE CAN QUICKLY REGAIN EMOTIONAL STABILITY AND LIVE HAPPILY WITH OUR CHILDREN- IN THE EVENT THERE ARE CHILDREN IN OUR HOMES.

I AM WORKING WITH A PROGRAM TO LET WOMEN LEARN ABOUT AND UNDERSTAND THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN LIFE. WE HAVE ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS TEACHING THEM HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE, HOW TO HAVE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE, AND HOW TO GROW THEIR CHILDREN AS EXCELLENT CITIZENS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

EUNICE MIJANGOS

Report about 57th COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

National Council of Women of Ukraine delegation, represented by Mrs. Liudmila Yakovleva, President, and Anna Kalmatskaya, Vice-President of Women's Federation for World Peace-Ukraine.

March 4 - 10, 2013

We would like to thank the president of ICW for giving us the chance to be part of the ICW delegation to the Commission. Our delegation was also registered by Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, so we able to attended the

CSW opening and almost all the general discussion where the representatives of different governments were speaking. We could listen to more than 100 reports of the government representatives from different countries.

Among the most impressive reports that we heard there were:

Turkey. It was one of the first countries that ratified the Convention against violence, 2006 women's NGOs took part in the Convention discussion. There are 24 hours a day centers opened for violated women where victims can receive any kind of help. There are practices of organizing meetings for men in cafes with the goal

to teach them how to overcome their anger against wives.

France. There is a system of e-bracelets invented that are put on men-violators.

Finland. The work on violence against women is focused first of all on educational work with boys and men. There are “boy’s houses” created with that purpose.

Switzerland. There is national action plan created where the priority is given to economical independence of women. There is close cooperation between the state and social structures. When the police receive the call about domestic violence it immediately informs the social services that contact a victim the next day.

Solomon Islands. Among 10 women 7 become victims of violence. The main difficulty of fighting with violence is that there are 7 languages in the country.

Ghana. It is very difficult to stand against violence because of traditions. It is almost impossible to complete the court cases on sexual and domestic violence. There are many forced marriages and female circumcision.

Brazil. There are 14 thousands sexual violence cases per year. There is 24 hours a day aid service for women created. Men who committed violence should compensate to the government all expenses for court, for medical service for victim.

India. There are laws against violence, but it is necessary to strengthen their fulfillment. There are special quick courts created on women and children violence. The government created special bank to support women entrepreneurs and gave 2 million \$ for it.

Bahrain. Because of religious background domestic violence is usually considered as family matter, not as the national one. So the government holds an education for women teaching them about their rights and abilities.

South African Republic. There is a state campaign “Stop to violence” going on where 2 million teachers work out the curricular course for schools.

(...)

Summary of Leysa Yurchyshyn’s Report

Representative to the UN Dept. Public

Information (DPI) NY

DPI NGO Briefing: “Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: The Role of Civil Society and Member States” March 14, 2013.

On the proposition of the Salvation Army, The Department of Public Information presented a briefing on the theme: *“Implementing the*

Responsibility to Protect: The role of Civil Society and Member States”.

The main goal was to understand how civil society and UN Member States could promote and implement the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). Tragedies like it happened in Rwanda in 1994 or the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo brought Member States to agree on the RtoP principle at the World Summit 2005. It implies that they have the obligation to protect people from four type of crimes: the genocide,

war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Besides if a State is manifestly failing in safeguarding its population, the international community is committed to assist it. Responsibility to Protect has three pillars: protection, international assistance and capacity building, and decisive response. Civil society, regional organizations and international institutions are all concerned with these prerogatives.

In this briefing it has been pointed out that RtoP should not be a pretext for military intervention; indeed use of force requires the Security Council authorization. That is why it is very important to prioritize prevention in implementing the RtoP. According to Gillian Kitley (Senior Officer, UN

Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect), as prevention is much more efficient and less controversial than response, it is easier to get support for it.

Another question to be raised is the importance to highlight situations when RtoP principle is misused. It happened for instance when Russia claimed to justify invasion in Georgia in 2008 or with the call by France for intervention in Myanmar in 2008.

It was finally stated that NGOs need to build a constituency of support for RtoP in order to increase NGO work and activities in support of the principle.

Extract from the report of *Theresa Der-Yan and Chin-Yen Chen (Taiwan)*

Inequality and violence are the result of a global conservatism and a radical fundamentalism.

Violence against women and girls is an issue not just for women but for all.

The elimination of violence would create an environment for advancing development of society.

By caring for women and girls in our actions we care for all their separate but interconnected paths towards a fairer and brighter future.

The Beijing Platform for action

The BPfA outlines 12 areas or critical concerns for women such as:

- Persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
- Inequalities in access to education, health care, to resources and productive activities, in the sharing of power and decision making, in the participation in all the communication systems and in the safeguarding of the environment and in access to natural resources;
- Persistent of gender stereotypes.

Agreed Conclusions Highlights

Extract from the report of *Jocelyn Huang (Taiwan)*

The Commission reaffirmed the BPfA, the CEDAW, the Geneva Conventions 1949 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Commission recalled the Security Council Resolution 1325 regarding the protection women in war and conflicts. Only 20 countries ratified this Resolution.

The Commission condemned all forms of violence against women and girls and urged governments to refrain from invoking any religious consideration to avoid applying obligations.

The Commission stressed the importance of protection of the Human Rights defenders, the protection against sexual abuse of women in prison, disabled women and women with AIDS.

The Commission agreed on the freedom of movement for women and girls and insisted on their rights to own a property.

The Commission encouraged the governments to set up awareness-raising campaigns, to forbid early marriage and female genital mutilations.

The Commission insisted also on the protection of women migrants.

Articles regarding the reproductive right were deleted.

ICW is grateful to **Emmy Galama**, our Permanent Representative to UNHABITAT. She attended side events of others organisations, she mentioned also the implication of the Dutch in the preparation of the CSW in The Hague. We thank her for the pictures.



Extract from the report of **Chularat Israngkool Na Ayutthaya**, Coordinator Social Issues. Thailand.

This is my first experience and I am very proud to be a woman and one of the accredited delegates of ICW-CIF and official delegates from Thailand. I have seen that women from different countries of the world and even men. The government agencies, UN and NGO gathered here and are interested in the same issues. In order to help to elimination and prevention of all form of violence against women and girls, we help each other to fight.

From the Remarks Opening Statement of **UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet** at CSW57 “Time for action: “This is not just one more year. So much has happened since we last

met. The world is watching as we come together to prevent and end violence against women and girls. “I would now to **highlight** five key areas for action”. **First:** We need to strengthen implementation of laws, policies and programmers for prevent and responding to violence against women and girls. **Secound:** We need to place more focus on preventing violence against women and girls. **Third:** We must address prevention and response together as part of a comprehensive stratege to be effective. **Fourth:** establishing comprehensive and accessible multi-sectorial services and responses is essential. **Fifth:** reliable data, analysis and research are essential to inform the development of laws, policies and programs on violence against women and girls.”

Extract from the report of **Esther R. Suter**.
Switzerland

I am very grateful to ICW to have accepted me as delegate and participant to CSW57 for 2013. I am a Board Member of the International Association of Liberal Religious Women, a 103 years old organization of around 200 women in 25 countries with around 12 religions.

Two of my topics were: Positions of the Holy See and positions of the WCC; MENA (Middle East/North Africa)-Region.

„A religious Response to the Causes and Consequences of Violence against Women and Girls“:

The UN-side event organized by the Holy See assembled four highly qualified women, among them a professor of Law and a gynecologist. The side event attracted many women, from a few supporting to some critical and opposing voices. It gave me the impression, that these professional women showed how they are supported in their career by the Catholic Church or more precisely in a patriarchal Church structure. So it seemed like a contradiction to the stereotype of a Church which holds women in a traditional role. Was it meant to correct this stereotype? Was it intended to show how women feel empowered in this patriarchal hierarchic structure? Of course they presented the official position of the Catholic Church in questions of abortion. In the official statement of the Holy See to UN there was more the question of dignity of women than of the “rights” of women, although women should be admitted full Human Rights and the Right of full social and legal equality. The panel gave a mixed feeling of approaching somehow the demand of women and

maintaining the own traditional position. The arguments were mainly stressing collective rights (e.g. family) than individual rights of women.

„Women’s Rights in the MENA-Region“

UN-side event of WILPF, supported by the Swiss Mission to UN. Women from Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Irak, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya complained that women are not included into negotiations about peace and security. They are target of intimidation in the public sphere. An example made public worldwide was Azza Helal Soliman from Egypt in 2011, when she tried to assist a young woman in Tahrir Square violently assaulted by authorities. Azza H.S. suffered from a fractured skull, cuts to her face and many bruises. Nevertheless she spoke, like all present women, saying that although their lives are in danger they would not give up to fight for more rights and for democracy. They answered in the discussion that they need the support from women in leading positions in issues about peace and security. They also expect some solidarity from the international connections and that strategies of peace and security on national and international level will get support.

“Women: Equality, Justice and Labor”

Parallel event at the Church Center of the Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF), regional office of America and Caribbean Women for Racial and Economic Equality. Lacking an interpreter I was asked on the spot to translate a Spanish speech of a woman from Cuba into English, which was quite a challenge to me. The panel gave a lot of historic insights into the political tensions of the past in the Caribbean and about the working conditions of women in Latin America.

Conclusion

ICW accredited 20 delegates from USA, Australia, Taiwan, the Netherlands, FYROM, Ukraine, Colombia, Nigeria, France and Switzerland for attending the CSW 57 in New York.

On behalf of ICW Board I will express our thanks to all the delegates, to the ICW Vice President Elisabeth Newman who organized the workshop and as well as to Monica Tolman, Brigitte Polonovski and Esther Eghobamien who were the Moderators of the ICW side event.

Violence against women is spread all over the world. Despite the international Conventions and UN Resolutions many countries still consider that violence against women is part of the traditional pattern of society.

“Violence is a societal pathology”, said Mrs Soon-Young Yoon (UN Representative of International Alliance of Women).

One can consider that the lack of political will is one of the greatest impediments to end violence against women.

Social and economic crises of the last years result in the reduction of governments services.

Social inequalities, war and conflicts have always exacerbate violence against women.

It is up to us, Representatives of NGOs, to denounce any abuse, any violent behaviour through the media and all the communication tools in order to exert a pressure on governments who are violating human rights for women.

It is our responsibility as women to participate in this international forum like the Commission on Status of Women, to inform our affiliated members and build their awareness about their rights and about the legitimacy of our struggle for Equality.

It depends on us to build the necessary network between women’s organisations for a better striking power.

Cosima Schenk

ICW President