

From Claire Matthewson, National Executive
claire.matthewson@otago.ac.nz

Mexico Conference, 5 – 9 August 2010

PLAN NOW TO GO to Mexico City for the 30th IFUW Triennial Conference on *Education, Empowerment & Development*

PLEASE LET US KNOW: Several requests have come from interested members keen to know who else is intending to go to the Conference. If you have a reasonably firm intention to go to Mexico, please let us know

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS: Four proposals have been gratefully received – one emanating from Wellington and three emanating from Otago. Two of Otago's proposals related to **New Challenges for Sustainable Development** and **Towards a Just Society**. The Wellington and other Otago proposal related to **Advancing Women through Lifelong Learning**.

Join IFUW's 2010-2013 Leadership Team

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the Board of Officers and Standing Committees for 2010-2013 is now open. IFUW leaders play key roles in implementing policy, developing programmes and giving direction to the Federation. IFUW seeks a diverse leadership representing different ages and geographic regions. Members with vision, energy and commitment are encouraged to stand. The Committees are:

- IFUW Board of Officers
- Committee for the Award of International Fellowships
- Finance Committee
- Membership Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Status of Women Committee

Details: About the positions, responsibilities, time and financial obligations and qualifications needed are available on the IFUW website – www.ifuw.org/nominations.

Eligibility: Any IFUW member is eligible. Candidates must be nominated by their national Federation. Nominations must reach IFUW by 5 February 2010.

Timeline: Members interested in being nominated should contact Dorothy Page, President, or Claire Matthewson, CIR, by 15 January 2010.

IFUW Special Committees: A Call for Nominations for these will be made later with a closing date in late April/early May. The Special Committees include Project Development and the Hegg Hoffet Fund.

Consultation on IFUW Programme for Action – Phase 2

All three Parts of this email discussion have concluded. Summaries of the discussions (of Education, Financial Independence, and Empowerment of Women) are posted on the IFUW website.

PGWNet Council AGM 2009

This electronic meeting of the Pacific Graduate Women's Network, chaired by AFGW Immediate Past President, Jenny Straus, occurred between 8 and 21 December 2009. A detailed report of this successful event will be in the February national bulletin.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

On 25 November, the Day's 10th anniversary, UNIFEM's Executive Director Ines Alberdi observed that: "We still live in a world where violence against women and girls is a major source of insecurity for half the world's population." According to some estimates, up to 70 per cent of women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. IFUW partnered with UNIFEM in the first phase of UNIFEM's campaign *Say No to Violence*. It now urges national affiliates to get involved even more strongly in the new phase *Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women*. Local and individual actions might include adding your name to the Say NO petition, volunteering at local refuges or women's organisations, advocating for legislation, donating funds that support local organisations.

To view the Say NO-UNiTE website: <http://saynotoviolence.org/>.

Challenges to Women's Empowerment in the 21st Century

A reading recommendation was received from a Waikato member to Branches interested in the IFUW 2010 Triennial Conference topic of women's empowerment (perhaps as a basis for a local workshop): *Women and Politics: New Zealand and Comparative Perspectives*. Kate McMillan, John Leslie & Elizabeth McLeay (eds), Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2009.