

## **NZFGW CIR Report**

Claire Matthewson [claire.matthewson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:claire.matthewson@otago.ac.nz)

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### **United Nations – not always leading by example**

#### **19 MEN + 0 WOMEN=GENDER EQUALITY?**

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's recent appointment of an all-male Advisory Board on Climate Change Financing has angered gender equality activists around the world. The appointment came as a surprise, as the UN has shown some progress in appointing women to decision-making positions. In reaction, IFUW was one of many NGOs that signed a letter by WEDO, the Women's Environment and Development Organisation, which urged "equitable representation of women and men" in the Advisory Board. The IFUW Board of Officers has also decided to circulate a petition that will call for gender equality in all UN appointed Committees and High Level Advisory Boards, Working Groups and Task Forces.

Read the full blog post and leave a comment: <http://www.ifuw-forums.org/blog/>  
On your behalf, NZFGW posted the following blog:

NZFGW strongly applauds the action taken by IFUW in signing the WEDO letter. We share IFUW and other NGOs' indignation that the United Nations – the organisation with crucial leadership roles and responsibilities for the state of the world – has conducted itself so inappropriately. As there is no shortage of excellent women eminently qualified for positions in the Climate Change Financing group, one has to conclude that women were not wanted. We shall be registering our concern in other quarters also.

### **The Mexico Conference, 5 – 9 August 2010**

#### **REQUEST FOR BRANCH VIEWS OR GUIDANCE**

Nine Policy Resolutions will be considered at the 30<sup>th</sup> IFUW Triennial Conference  
These areas of vital interest and concern are:

- Worklife balance
- Numeracy and women
- Financial literacy
- Abuse of female migrants
- Human Trafficking
- Bioethics and women
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Cluster munitions
- Peacekeeping.

The Resolutions – together with well documented Plans of Action and Supporting Statements – are available on the **ifuw.org** website. (Click on "2010 IFUW Conference" and then on "Documents".) **Any comments, guidance or further**

**information from Branches or individual members would be very welcome and much valued by your Conference delegation.**

Also on this Documents webpage, you will find five Internal Resolutions and six proposed amendments to the IFUW Constitution and By-Laws. Any views on these from Branches or individual members are likewise welcome.

**THE NZ CONTINGENT** now looks likely to be 13-strong: Louise Croot, Martine Cashell-Smith, Rae Duff, Joy Dunsheath, Lyn Foote, Shirley Gillett, Sian Halcrow, Lorraine Isaacs, Claire Matthewson, Dorothy Meyer, Dorothy Page, Beverley Turner, and Sheila Williams.

Based on membership numbers, NZFGW is entitled to three voting Delegates. These are Dorothy Page, Joy Dunsheath and Claire Matthewson. Alternate voting delegates are Rae Duff and Sheila Williams.

### **Update on Call for interest in IFUW Special Committees 2010–2013**

Since last month's newsletter, NZFGW has formally suggested to IFUW a highly suitable candidate for the Hegg Hoffet Committee. With a **1 May 2010** closing date, there is still time to suggest a candidate for the **Projects Development Committee**. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in serving on this.

Detailed information about the experience and qualifications being sought and the forms to submit can be downloaded from the following sites.

[Call for the 2010-2013 Projects Development Committee](#)  
[Project Committee Biodata Form](#)

### **Reminder – IFUW Fellowships and Grants 2011-2012**

The closing date for IFUW fellowships and grants is **1 October 2010**. To allow sufficient time for their consideration, the NZFGW closing date for receiving applications is **31 July 2010**. Information on fellowships and grants and the Application Form are available on the website [www.ifuw.org](http://www.ifuw.org). As IFUW requires applications to be submitted electronically, applications will also need to be submitted to NZFGW electronically.

### **Beijing + 15 jottings from a first time participant...**

**FROM BEVERLEY TURNER** *Long live networking!*

My linkage with IFUW was via my long-term involvement with Pacific Graduate Women's Network and it was a delight to meet up with IFUW contingent at pre-CSW briefing at which Louise Croot briefed us well. We also heard from the three IFUW Reps to the UN in New York and I was impressed by their commitment to keep us abreast of key meetings and decisions and to explore new linkages that could benefit IFUW: eg Girl Child initiatives of UNICEF. Four hectic days later we met again over a Mexican dinner – informal networking flourished.

Despite the snow (which I thought was beautiful), the early morning queues for tickets to access practically all country or UN agency presentations ('What are you focussing on?' was an infallible conversation starter), the scattered venues (nothing like brisk 10 minute walks to clear the head between one challenging presentation and

the next) and the UN's concluding statement (very pedestrian especially when compared with regional caucus statements: eg Asia Pacific) - I am so pleased I attended.

The NGO Global Forum on Women Beijing + 15 was held in the Salvation Army's capacious Art Deco complex in the Bronx and it opened and closed with drama and music. The 18 panelists were world-class and over the two days spoke with passion and from rich experience in four themed sequences:

- 'Advancing Women's Rights, 1975-2010 – what world conferences on women accomplished';
- 'State of the World's Women - patriarchy, violence against women and girls, women's health and climate change';
- 'Voices from Around the World – regional priorities and action';
- 'Fulfilling the promise of gender equality, peace and development: women, peace and security, strengthening international mechanisms, world economic crisis, building women's leadership and the MDGs' (Yes, all in one panel of very practised speakers).

The microphone queues for NGO input after each panel were long and a wide interchange of opinions were shared.

My next eight days included time in the galleries of UN Conference rooms, listening to key UN or country speakers: eg UK and EU women gave stunning speeches on gender justice and urgency re establishment of new gender entity. Parallel events continued through the weekend with a stimulating range of workshops by international agencies: eg AWID or lesser-known country-specific agencies such as Green Women of Sweden. Particular highlights of CSW54 included a ticketed Pacific 'side event' hosted by the Australian Government at which Ruth Maetala (PGWNet, Solomon Islands) spoke on 'Women and Decision Making in Solomon Islands'. Ruth was definitely the star of that panel! Another highlight was a UNICEF sponsored dialogue between a 16 year old Cambodian HR activist, the strongly male, pro gender equality UN Ambassador from Norway and two of my most admired women: Mary Robinson, ex UN Human Rights Commissioner and Charlotte Bunch, Rutgers University, who has been driving NGO advocacy for GEAR.

Quirky coincidences abounded – such as sitting close to an Iranian HR activist with whom I have been emailing but despaired of locating, meeting an elderly Virginia Gildersleeve supporter at an unrelated reception who wondered if I had news of her old friend, Dame Dorothy Winstone, and finding that the Ghanaian security guard at the YMCA who let me use the computer classroom one evening has a sister at the University of Auckland! To explore CSW 54, resources for UN and NGO events include webcast archives <http://www.un.org/webcast/2010.html> and

<http://www.livestream.com.salvationarmyny>

For UN docs: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/documentation.html>

and for NGO/CSW/NY blogs and shadow reports, see:

<http://ngoescwny.wordpress.com/>