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EWL Newsflash

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Editorial

Reconciliation of private and professional life – Should maternity leave pay the price of the failure to engage men in their share of care?

The recent proposal of the European Commission (October 2008) to increase the minimum length of maternity leave and to extend the mandatory period, currently at two weeks, to six weeks, has sparked debate among feminists and others as to whether women should be singled out in this way as this form of leave only relates to women. The main problem is that the maternity leave proposal is just one of three proposals currently on the table part of the European 'package' of measures to reconcile private and professional life but those proposals are being dealt with in different ways. Two of these proposals, namely amendments to the **1992 Maternity Leave Directive** and repeal of the **1986 Directive on Self Employed workers and their Assisting Spouses** are both being discussed by the Council and European Parliament (Women's Rights Committee) as part of a co-decision procedure. The third proposal, amending the **1996 Parental Leave Directive** is being discussed by the Social Partners who are invited to make proposals in the form of a Social Partners Framework Agreement. It is without a doubt that it is this third proposal that holds the key to shifting the traditional division of (paid and unpaid) work between women and men in which women's over representation in caring for family members has led to obstacles and discrimination in other areas of life (employment, decision-making.) Another problem is that the Social Partners' discussions are not open to other actors and therefore influencing this process is difficult with the result that the other two proposals, and particularly the one on maternity leave is considered to be the opportunity for changing the unequal division of paid and unpaid work in which women and men are far from being equal. Should maternity leave pay the price for the failure to engage men in their share of care?

The European Women's Lobby believes that women must not pay this price. Women's increasing participation in the labour market must not occult the reality of many women's lives; any attempt to undermine women's right to an improvement in maternity provisions would reinforce the already prevailing image of a labour market organised around a the male life-cycle, disregarding the role of women as workers and the fact that the structure of the labour market must take into account the reality, aspirations and needs of **both women and men**. The EWL is proposing amendments to the maternity leave proposal which includes **24 weeks fully paid leave** of which the **six mandatory weeks** are **not subjected** to any previous work record; **fully paid additional leave** in exceptional circumstances relating to the health of the mother and/or child and a **one-year protection period** for women **returning** to work.

In relation to self employed women and assisting partners, EWL amendments include **six week mandatory (maternity) leave** and the **obligation of Member States** to provide **social security coverage to assisting spouses** (changing this to assisting "partners").

Proposals for **one-month fully paid paternity leave** has been included into the proposal for parental leave as well as the sharing of parental leave amongst partners by guaranteeing **non transferable periods of leave** and that leave for the care of children and/or family members is **fully paid** to ensure that men take their share of care. Information: Collins@womenlobby.org

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Editorial (français)

Conciliation entre vie privée et vie professionnelle - Le congé de maternité devrait-il payer le prix de l'échec à impliquer les hommes dans le partage des soins aux personnes dépendantes ?

La récente proposition de la Commission européenne (octobre 2008) d'augmenter la durée du congé de maternité et de prolonger la période obligatoire, actuellement de deux semaines, à six semaines, a suscité un débat parmi les féministes et d'autres groupes sur la question de savoir si les femmes doivent être traitées différemment (puisque cette forme de congé ne concerne que les femmes). Le problème principal réside dans le fait que la proposition sur le congé de maternité fait partie d'un paquet de trois propositions, actuellement sur la table concernant des mesures visant à concilier vie privée et vie professionnelle, mesures qui sont négociées dans le cadre de processus décisionnels différents. Deux de ces propositions, la révision de la **directive de 1992 relative au congé de maternité** et la proposition d'abrogation de la **directive de 1986 sur les travailleurs indépendants et leurs conjointes aidantes** sont en cours d'examen par le Conseil et le Parlement européen (Commission des droits de la femme) dans le cadre de la procédure de codécision. La troisième proposition, modifiant la **directive de 1996 relative au congé parental**, est actuellement discutée par les partenaires sociaux qui devraient faire leurs propositions dans le cadre d'un accord-cadre des partenaires sociaux. Il est évident que la troisième proposition est primordiale pour changer la division traditionnelle du travail (rémunéré et non rémunéré) entre les femmes et les hommes au sein de laquelle le fait que les femmes s'occupent en grande majorité des soins aux personnes dépendantes conduit à des obstacles/ discriminations dans d'autres domaines de la vie (emploi, prise de décision,...). Un autre problème réside dans le fait que les discussions entre partenaires sociaux ne sont pas ouvertes à d'autres acteurs et qu'il est, par conséquent, très difficile d'influencer le processus de décision. Il en découle que les deux autres propositions, et en particulier celle sur le congé de maternité est considérée comme l'opportunité de modifier en profondeur la division inégale entre travail rémunéré et non rémunéré au sein de laquelle les femmes et les hommes sont loin d'être égaux. Le congé de maternité devrait-il payer le prix de l'échec à impliquer les hommes dans le partage des soins ?

Le Lobby européen des femmes estime que les femmes ne devraient pas avoir à payer ce prix. L'augmentation du nombre de femmes présentes sur le marché du travail ne doit pas occulter la réalité de la vie de nombreuses femmes. Toute tentative visant à saper le droit des femmes à l'amélioration des dispositions encadrant la maternité renforcerait l'image d'un marché du travail structuré autour du cycle de vie masculin sans tenir compte du rôle des travailleuses et du fait que ces structures devraient tenir compte de la réalité, des aspirations et des besoins des femmes et des hommes. Le LEF a formulé des amendements à la proposition de **congé de maternité**, amendements qui prévoient : **24 semaines de congés entièrement payés dont six semaines obligatoires qui ne sont soumises à aucune condition de durée d'emploi précédent** ; un congé supplémentaire en cas de circonstances exceptionnelles liées à la santé de la mère et/ou de l'enfant et une **extension de 6 mois à un an la période de protection** contre le licenciement pour les femmes qui retournent au travail.

En ce qui concerne les **travailleuses indépendantes et les conjoint-e-s aidant-e-s**, les propositions d'amendements prévoient **six semaines obligatoires de congé (maternité)** et **l'obligation pour les États membres de fournir une couverture de sécurité sociale pour les épouses aidantes** (en changeant le terme par « conjointes aidantes »).

Une proposition d'**un mois de congé de paternité entièrement payé** a été incluse dans la proposition sur le **congé parental**. Ont été également inclus le partage du congé parental entre les conjoints/partenaires en garantissant des périodes de congé non transférable, ainsi qu'un congé entièrement payé pour la garde d'enfants et/ou les membres de la famille et ce pour faire en sorte que les hommes participent dans le domaine des soins aux personnes dépendantes.

Information: Collins@womenlobby.org

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EWL News

News from the EWL project “Equal Rights. Equal Voices - Migrant Women in the EU”.

8 representatives of different migrant women's organisations across Europe came to Brussels on 30.01.09 to discuss with the Czech and Swedish Permanent Representations to the EU their upcoming initiatives regarding immigration, as well as potential collaboration with other NGOs such as Migration Policy group and PICUM. This was followed by a two-day meeting to discuss the legal statutes of the European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW) as well as future transnational activities. You can find more information about the project [here](#).

On 11.02.2009, the EWL and EPAC VAW had a **meeting in Brussels with Karin Bengtson from Swedish Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality** to exchange information, as the Swedish government will highlight Gender equality and Violence against Women during its Presidency starting in July 2009. A EU conference on Violence against women will take place in Stockholm on 9 November on actions and strategies to combat gender violence against women. The EWL Observatory could be a good resource to find experts and good practices.

The EWL proposed amendments to the Dehaene Report on “The impact of the treaty of Lisbon on the development of the institutional balance of the European Union” currently being discussed by the EP Constitutional Affairs Committee. This report relates to the implementation of new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty on inter-institutional relationships and high level EU positions. The amendments proposed by the EWL and tabled by some MEPs aim at introducing stronger measures for a gender balance in decision-making at EU level and more women in EU top jobs. These amendments now need to be adopted by the Constitutional Affairs Committee. A positive vote on those amendments would be a significant victory. The main amendment prevents the appointment of three persons of the same sex for the 3 “EU top jobs”: the President of the European Council, the President of the Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President. The vote in Committee will take place on March 9th.

The EWL replied to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) consultation for its 2010 Work Programme. The EWL called on the FRA to include a stronger transversal gender equality and women's rights perspective in all the thematic areas of the Multi-Annual Framework and made specific suggestions in relation to the draft 2010 work programme. Read the EWL contribution [here](#).

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Update on the EWL 50/50 Campaign - www.5050democracy.eu

The EWL 50/50 Campaign “No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality” was launched on 16.09.08. The European wide Campaign aims to increase the presence of women at the highest level of European politics and to encourage women to cast their votes in the next European elections. The Campaign is already personally endorsed by more than 200 well known personalities from all political parties and across Europe ([see 50/50 website here](#)).

Supporter of the Month

Simone Veil, Former President of the European Parliament, France: “Being conscious of having had a lot of luck in having had the opportunity to exert high foundations within the European Union, and noting that the role of women is still a minority one, it is with pleasure that I support your initiative.”

An additional European Commissioner, **László Kovács**, Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union as well as Herman Van Rompuy, Belgian Prime Minister have joined the Campaign as a prominent supporter.

Take Action!

Don't forget to [sign the 50/50 Campaign petition](#)! As part of the 50/50 Campaign we are collecting signatures to show that the equal representation of women and men in the highest levels of EU politics is an important issue for European citizens. The signatures will be used to enforce our messages to political decision-makers, and to show that the 50/50 Campaign has a large public support. In addition to the online petition, we have also prepared a paper petition in **English** and in **French**. Please print some copies, circulate them widely, and send them back to us!

Other resources

A new **report by the European Commission entitled “Women in European politics - time for action”** (January 2009) is [available online](#). The report analyses the under-representation of women in decision-making at all levels in the European Union. It examines why it has been difficult to break down the barriers hindering women to enter political decision-making in the EU.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (**PACE**) awards the “Gender Equality Prize” 2009. **The "Equality Prize" is intended for national and European political parties in recognition of specific completed or current action that has significantly improved women's participation in elected assemblies or political parties, or in their respective executive bodies. The deadline for candidatures is 1st June 2009. [Click here](#) to read more.**

EWL Representation

- Thérèse Murphy, EWL Vice-President, spoke on 05-06.02.2008 at the **Czech Presidency European Ministerial Conference “Parental Childcare and Employment Policies: Collision or Complementarity ”**
- Mary Collins spoke on 18.02.2009 at the Women's Committee of COPA (European Farmers).
- Mary Collins participated on 18.02.2009 to the Commission and Swedish Presidency first preparatory meeting of the **Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion**
- Amandine Bach participated on 23.02.2009 to a **European Commission's expert meeting on the amendment of the asylum qualification directive** (Directive 2004/83/EC).

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EWL Civil Society Representation

Platform of European Social NGOs – EWL is member of the Platform of European social NGOs and has an elected seat within its Management Committee. Mary Collins and Sarah Caquineau participated in the Social Policy Working Group on 20.01.09. The Social Platform also held a preparatory meeting prior to the Commission and Swedish Presidency first meeting to prepare the Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion. Mary Collins attended the Steering Group meeting on 19 February. More information on the Platform: [Social Platform](#)

EU Civil Society Contact Group – EWL is member of the [EU Civil Society Contact Group](#) that brings together seven large rights and value based NGO sectors - environment, social, development, women, culture, human rights and public health. More information: [Act 4 Europe](#)

EESC Liaison Group with Organised Civil Society – EWL is member of the NGO Liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee. More information: [NGO Liaison](#)

EWL is member of the **Migration and Asylum sub-groups** initiated by the UNHCR to discuss and exchange information on the development of immigration policies and legislations at European level.

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European & International News in Brief

Czech Presidency updates. In the course of 2009, many strategic decisions are expected: official Eastern Partnership launch and implementation of the new gender equality legislation concerning maternity leave, self-employed workers and ban on discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in media, education, social protection, and in access to goods and services. You can visit [here](#) the new website with all the updates from the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Priorities of future Spanish Presidency based on equality. Spanish government chief Zapatero spoke to the Association of European Journalists of the priorities of the future Spanish presidency of the EU: provide impetus to a new economic model, strengthen social Europe, the adaptation of Europe to a multi-polar world. M. Zapatero also indicated that the Spanish presidency would be an ambitious one based on two ideas: innovation and equality, notably between men and women. Click [here](#) to read more (Spanish) (Source: CSCG)

Unanimous judgment of ECHR on the case ‘Women on Waves and others v. Portugal’. The European Court of Human rights issued its judgment in this case and found a violation of Article 10 (freedom for expression). In 2004, Women on Waves planned information meetings on abortion on its ship in a Portuguese port, but the authorities refused entry to the ship as they thought the Women on Waves ship would give Portuguese women access to forbidden abortion procedures and medicines (at this time, abortion was illegal in Portugal). The European Court held the interference to be disproportionate and noted that nothing indicated that the NGOs had wanted to administer abortion medicines. More information available [here](#). (Source ECHR blog)

In Doha 2008, women demand gender-sensitive economic policies. Members of the Women’s Working Group (WWG) on Financing for Development participating in the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha welcomed the recognition of important aspects related to gender equality and women’s empowerment. At the same time, the WWG re-emphasized their demand for stronger gender equality policy commitments and actions. They also called on decision-makers to acknowledge that

macroeconomic and financial issues are not gender-neutral and therefore demand gender-sensitive policies. Read [more](#). (Source: UN-INSTRAW News)

The Assembly of Women demands “the end of control over our bodies”. In the World Social Forum which took place in Belém do Para, Brazil in February 2009, the Assembly of Women made a declaration in which they “demand the end of control over our bodies and our sexualities” and “show strong solidarity with “women victims of patriarchal violence [...] and women who are taken to court because they had an abortion or because they are defending that right”. Click [here](#) to read the declaration (French).

“Words do matter”. Several Women’s organization made a common press release on the establishment of the Commission on Equality between Women and Men in the Turkish Parliament. They want to stress their concerns regarding the change made to the name of the Commission during the Parliamentary Assembly. The new name should be “Women and Men Equal Opportunities Commission” which annuls the correctly put initial proposal entitled. “The term “equal opportunities”, which was widely used in many European countries for the provision of equal opportunities in field of employment, has fallen short of ensuring actual equality for women in most of the European countries”, says the press release. In this line, there are attempts to go beyond the conception of 'equal opportunities' in order to bring in the understanding of 'equality of results' also in the binding legislation of EU”. Go [here](#) to read the full press release.

Czech Minister Petr Nečas has attacked the Barcelona targets! The Gender Studies association made a press release in which they criticized the Czech Minister for proposing measures that force women to interrupt their careers in order to care for their children. “Minister Petr Nečas has attacked a part of the strategy aimed at increasing the prosperity of the E.U., specifically the recommendation of the European Commission that asked the member states to “remove the barriers to women’s full participation in the labour market and to respond to the demand for childcare facilities.” Czech Women's Lobby and Equal Opportunities Association are also supported this press release. You can read it [here](#).

Changing gender representation in the media. The Fourth Global Media Monitoring Project, which is a large study on gender in the world’s news media, will be held in November 2009. Media monitors all over world will participate in a massive effort to collect data on selected indicators of gender in their local news media. The project takes place this year in order to publish the results in time for key global processes scheduled for 2010, including the Beijing +15 review. To participate in GMMP which is open to any individual, group and organisation, email your contact information to whomakesthenews-subscribe@gn.apc.org or register online [here](#).

Irish opinion poll in favour of the Lisbon Treaty. According to an opinion poll organized by Lansdowne Market Research, published in January, the Irish are now mainly in favour of the Lisbon Treaty. The economic crisis may be an explanation of this turn around in opinion. Read more on thepost.ie or download the [full survey](#). (Source: Civil Society Contact Group)

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News from the European Parliament

EP urges Member States to fulfil their goals on childcare, agreed in the 2002 Barcelona Council. In the resolution, MEPs fear that the Czech Presidency's proposal for childcare "is geared towards the traditional division of labour between men and women, that is to say the traditional concept of a worker being male whose personal needs are taken care of by 'invisible hands' (women) organizing the home and the family”. According to the resolution, the persons who devote their time and skills in the field of intergenerational solidarity should receive social

recognition. The EP urges the Commission to introduce initiatives which validate skills acquired in carrying out caring and educational tasks so that "these skills are taken into consideration upon re-entry into the labor market". Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Employer's sanction directive: Migrant workers and not employers will pay the price of their exploitation. The European Parliament voted in favour of a report by Mr. Fava MEP on EU legislation aiming to introduce sanctions for employers of irregular third country nationals. ENAR, EWL, PICUM and SOLIDAR had welcomed the high priority given by the EP to addressing the exploitation of migrant workers. However, we were disappointed by the compromise reached by the EU Council and the EP that retains the focus on the status of the migrant, rather than on the exploitation by the employer. While welcoming some key protective provisions, the EWL and the other networks are concerned that this directive does not recognise the existence of labour rights for undocumented workers and that the directive will have a number of unintended effects that run counter to the EU's values. Joint press release [here](#).

One step from the Commission to the European Parliament. According to sources in the EU executive, five members of the European Commission - "Viviane Reding (information society), Louis Michel (humanitarian aid), Janez Potočnik (research), Danuta Hübner (regional policy) and Ján Figel' (education) - are set to quit their jobs to run in next June's elections to the European Parliament. Read more on [Euractiv](#).

53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will convene for its 53rd session in New York on 2–13 March to consider the priority theme, "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS." [More](#).

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[Update on Violence against Women and Women's Human Rights](#)

Combating Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) in the EU. The EP Women's Rights Committee adopted a report that draws up a strategy and action plan in order to banish FGM from the EU. "Around 500,000 women in Europe are the victims of genital mutilation", according to the own-initiative report drafted by Cristiana Muscardini. MEPs also call for EU directives on immigration to treat the act of committing genital mutilation as an offence and to lay down appropriate penalty for those guilty of it. It should be compulsory for general practitioners, doctors and health clinic teams to report female genital mutilation to the health authorities or the police. More information available on the Women's Rights Committee [website](#).

Sexual abuse of children: criminalize "grooming" on the Internet. The European Parliament says in a new report that "Grooming" and paedophile chat rooms on the Internet should be criminalized and sex crimes should be subject to an extraterritorial legislation. The EP also call on the EU to fund prevention programmes and underline that seven member states have still not signed the Council of Europe convention on this issue, and eight have not ratified the optional protocol on the UN convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Click [here](#) to read the full EP report.

The Women's UN Report Program & Network (WUNRN) has released the report "Violence against Women & Girls: a Compendium of Monitoring & Evaluation Indicators". The goal is to develop a set of monitoring and evaluation indicators for program managers, organizations, and policy makers who are working to address Violence against Women

and Girls. Click [here](#) to download the report or go to the [website](#). **Electronic newsletter on Violence against Women** of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women. You can get more information on the [website](#).

“Women and Men: United to End Violence against Women” is the theme of this year's International Women's Day. The United Nations will focus on the UN Secretary-General's multi-year campaign, 'Unite to End Violence against Women'. There will be a number of activities and a high-level panel discussion. For more information, visit the [IWD website](#).

The 2008 Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime released the 2008 edition of the “Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons”. “The goals of the toolkit are to prevent and combat trafficking, to protect and assist its victims and to promote international cooperation”. In pursuit of these goals, the 123 tools contained in the Toolkit offer guidance, recommended resources, and promising practices to policymakers, law enforcers, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers and members of civil society who are working in interrelated spheres towards preventing trafficking, protecting and assisting victims and promoting international cooperation. Click here to [read more](#) and/or to [download](#) the toolkit.

Conference on “Porn Cultures: Regulation, Political Economy, and Technology”. The Centre for International Communications Research (CICR), the Media Industries Research Centre and the Institute of Communications Studies at the University of Leeds are organising this symposium on 15-16.06.09 in Leeds. The seminar will focus on the porn industry as a global media industry, which is closely linked to the sex industry, trafficking and the mainstream media. The conference aims to highlight the political economic, technological and policy dimensions of the global porn industry. [More](#).

Resolution taken at the Arctic Women Conference in Luleå February 1, 2009. 80 participating women from shelters and crises centres from the countries in the Barents Region, and from Greenland, Faeroe Islands and Iceland gathered with the Swedish Minister of Gender and Integration Ms. Nyamko Sabuni to talk about gender based violence in all its forms. In the resolution, Arctic women demand that “the arctic will be a violence free zone”. Arctic women also highlight the fact that buyers of women should be “reported, prosecuted and sentenced” and that “preventive and protective work against violence should be strengthened”. Write to eva.engman@gmail.com for more information.

USA Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) made a toolkit on “Calculating the Cost of Domestic Violence”. Calculating the cost of violent crime has become an important tool to help guide public policy decisions. Click [here](#) to get the toolkit or go to [MCBW website](#).

Women's Link Worldwide made a short documentary **“Universal Jurisdiction: Rape as Torture”** now available on their web page. This documentary focuses on this case and the importance of recognizing the crime of rape as torture in national and international courts. View the documentary [here](#).

“Tackling the Trafficking of Women and Children”. Capita's 8th National conference will be held in Central London on Wednesday, 25th March and will focus on the new COE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This timely conference will examine prevention initiatives, protection for victims and prosecution of perpetrators. [More here](#).

Publication on Prostitution and Human Trafficking. Professor Nicole LaViolette, along with Mélanie Claude and Richard Poulin, has edited a new book entitled 'Prostitution et traite des êtres humains, enjeux nationaux et internationaux'. You can read more on the [website](#).

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery provides project grants for programs of humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The deadline is 31st March 2009. If you need more information on the Fund, click [here](#).

Support Amnesty International Belgium campaign in solidarity with women's organization in Colombia. La Organización Femenina Popular works to end human rights abuses, exclusion and poverty. They work for the empowerment of women, e.g. through education on human rights, monitor violations of women's human rights, and provide soup kitchens for women and their families in several parts of Colombia. Show your support by sending them a [postcard](#) at the occasion of the 8th of March. Text model: " 8 de marzo del 2009. Queridas mujeres de la OFP : Sabemos que sin mujeres, no hay tejido ni solidaridad social. Por eso el papel de la OFP es imprescindible. Sabemos también que las agresiones siguen, las amenazas también, como estos últimos tiempos en Bucaramanga. Reciban en el día internacional de la mujer nuestro mas cálido saludo solidario, sabiendo que no están solas". More information: [claudioguthmann\(at\)skynet.be](mailto:claudioguthmann(at)skynet.be)

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Events

International Women's Day at the European Parliament. The Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee is organizing an International Women's Day Seminar entitled "Women and the European elections", on 5 March from 9.00-12.30. Click [here](#) to get the draft program.

“Oser entreprendre au féminin” is the theme of the conference Paris-Dauphine University will held in Paris on Monday, 9th March as part of the international women's day. Contact noemiegrignon@gmail.com for further information.

Rajfire association will held the international forum **“Migrant and Exile Women: solidarity and action”** in Paris, the 4th and 5th, April, 2009. This forum will gather feminist associations which fight for migrant women's rights. Contact rajfire@wanadoo.fr for info.

Second edition of the “Rencontres internationales laïques”. The French association “Union des Familles laïques” (UNAF) will organize the second edition of “Rencontres internationales laïques” in Paris on 4th and 25th, April, 2009. Read [more](#)

Feminist Women's Gathering is the conference organized by the Autonomous Women in Vienna, Austria on April, 9th – 14th, 2009. The aim is to meet feminist women and lesbians from different countries who are involved in struggles against sexism, racism, homophobia, capitalism, fascism and patriarchy. Find details on the [website](#).

”Politicisation of Religion and its impact on gender” is the theme of the international conference organized by The Heinrich Boell Foundation on June 5th & 6th 2009 in Berlin. Scholars and activists from over ten countries worldwide will discuss the correlation between religion, politics and gender. Contact Jill Scherneck, scherneck@boell.de to know more.

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Publications - Web Sites

Results of UN-INSTRAW Virtual Dialogues. The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) published the results of several virtual dialogues:

- **Virtual dialogue on the Current Situation in Gender Training.** Click [here](#) to read more.
- Two other Virtual Discussions, one on “**Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development: Towards a Participatory Research Framework**” and the other “**Creating Gender Sensitive Migration Policy**”. The Virtual Discussions sought to understand current trends in women’s migration and their impact on policy. Click [here](#) to read more.
- Virtual dialogue on “**Filling the Gaps: A Virtual Discussion of Gender, Peace and Security Research**”. Click [here](#) to read the Summary of the Dialogue and/or the [10 Key Recommendations](#).

Migration and Development from a Gender Perspective. UN-INSTRAW launched a new theoretical framework “**Crossing Borders II: Migration and Development from a Gender Perspective**”. Conceptualized within a human development framework and with a human rights approach that places gender equality at its centre, the new document deconstructs the paradigm of remittances for development from a gender perspective and explores emerging themes in the relationship between gender, migration and development. Read [more](#)

Case Studies. AWID's Building Feminist Movements and Organisations (BFEMO) Initiative undertook a series of 10 case studies between July 2007 and February 2008 to advance an understanding of feminist movements that mobilize women to make a difference in the current global context. The Initiative aims to provide organisations working to build similar types of movements with a guide for their work. Download [case studies](#) (Source: UN-INSTRAW News)

MIGS' Diary. The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies has published a Diary for the year 2009 with the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as its central theme. The CEDAW Diary 2009 includes information on women’s rights and discrimination, simplified summaries of all the CEDAW Articles. Click [here](#) to view the full diary in PDF format or contact the MIGS for a hard copy at info@medinstgenderstudies.org.

Expert Database on Gender and ICTs. The International Taskforce on Women in ICTs has created an expert database on gender and ICTs. It focuses on four main areas of activity relating to gender and ICT: Education, Workforce, Entrepreneurship and Leadership. It is a resource for all possible actors on the gender dimensions of ICTs. Click [here](#) to find a gender expert or be listed as one.

Europe's Muslim women: potential, aspirations and challenges. This report presents the key findings of a qualitative study about Europe’s Muslim women, conducted by Dr Sara Silvestri (London’s City University and Cambridge University, UK), on behalf of the King Baudouin Foundation. It aims to obtain a general sense of the extent to which the religion of Islam plays a role in defining the experiences of Europe’s Muslim women and to charter the main issues of concern, and trends of thinking and of mobilisation among them. The study was conducted in Belgium, Great Britain and Italy, primarily in three cities with large concentrations of Muslim populations: Brussels, London, and Turin. Click [here](#) to download the publication.

“Commission’s Lobby Register Fails Transparency Test”. The Alliance for Lobbying Transparency & Ethics Regulation –EU (ALTER-EU) has released a preliminary assessment of

the Commission's Lobby register. The analysis shows that the voluntary approach is failing: “the compliance rate is alarmingly low, the overall quality of information disclosed is very poor” and “there are still numerous public interest groups with significant EU lobbying activities that are not on the register”. Click [here](#) to read the report.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) European Network launched this year’s edition of Choices, its annual publication focusing on issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe. 2008 edition of Choices is especially dedicated to volunteering in Europe and in IPPF. The publication is available [here](#).

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) released the publication “**Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions**”. This report aims to investigate the particular vulnerability that characterizes the reality of undocumented children and analyze their specific needs and problems encountered in various European countries. Click [here](#) to download the pdf version and/or order the report (Publication available in English, French, and Spanish)

Spanish version of ‘Mapping the World’ database. ‘Mapa del Mundo’ makes the resources of more than 400 women’s libraries, archives, and information, documentation and resource centres in 132 countries accessible to Spanish speaking audiences. It is the Spanish language version of the database ‘Mapping the World’ which has been initiated first in 1998 by the International Information Centre Archives for the Women’s Movement. You can find Mapa del Mundo at www.iiav.nl/mapadelmundo

The French National Office for Family Allocations (CNAF) released the new publication of “Informations sociales” which is on “**Gender and power in Europe**”. The publication aims at questioning the unequal access of women to power. Click [here](#) to order the publication (French).

FIA’s gender report. The International Federation of Actors has released a new report on “**Age, Gender and Performer Employment in Europe**”. The final research aims to establish an overview of how gender and aging impact on the employment conditions of performers. The report is available for download [here](#) in four languages.

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Funding, Training, Call for Papers/Awards

Funding

The German UNIFEM Prize 2009: Empowerment of Women. The German national Committee of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is awarding projects and programmes of women's organizations from Africa and Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe (except EU Member states) which dedicate their work to strengthen women's empowerment. Go to the [website](#), or send an [e-mail](#) to apply.

Training opportunities

“Making Governance Gender Responsive” course. Enhance your understanding of gender and development and governance concept, gain appreciation of gender-related and governance issues, identify gender biases in governance. The Asian Institute of Management Conference Center (ACCM), Philippines, 20-27 March, 23-30 July, and 20-27.11.09. The deadline for registration is at least 2 weeks before the training. Click [here](#) to read more and/or to register.

Online course on “The global development agenda: tools for gender-sensitive planning and implementation”. The purpose of this course is to create greater awareness of these

opportunities and initiate further action at the national and the international levels. Course available in English, French and Spanish. Deadline is 27 February 2009. [More](#) information.

Calls /Awards

Challenge conventional understandings of “femininity” and “masculinity”! The World Association for Christian Communication has launched its Photographic Competition 2009 on “portraying gender”. Photographers are invited to submit photos that portray women or men in ways that offer new perceptions about their roles and responsibilities. Photos must be loaded on [Flickr](#). Read more about [the competition](#).

Gender Justice Awards. Women’s Link Worldwide is looking for the best and the worst recent decisions or statements on gender equality in Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean. A jury will evaluate the nominations and will choose the three best and worst decisions. The Awards will be announced on 10.05.09, commemorating the decision that decriminalized abortion in Colombia in 2006. Click [here](#) to get more information and/or send your submissions of decisions.

Give your opinion on “Financial inclusion”. The European Commission has launched a public consultation on "Financial inclusion: Ensuring access to a basic bank account" since 06.02.09. The objective of this consultation is to collect views from all stakeholders on how financial inclusion can be improved. All citizens and organizations are welcome to contribute by 06.04.09. Click [here](#) to know more and/or give your opinion. You can also find information on: study and conference [here](#) and on in-depth country reports [here](#).

Become the new correspondent for ‘Voices of Our Future’. World Pulse, a global media organization covering world issues through the eyes of women, has announced a call for applications for Voices of Our Future, a new international women's correspondent network. World Pulse will choose up to 30 applicants among grassroots. The correspondents will embark on a four-month programme that includes training in ‘Web 2.0’ and citizen journalism by specialists. Deadline: 14 March 2009. Click [here](#) to apply.

Contribution to “difficult dialogues” conference. The National Women's Studies Association will organize a conference on 12-15.11.09 in Atlanta, which “will examine how feminist intellectual, political, and institutional practices cannot be adequately practiced if the politics of gender are conceptualized as superseding or transcending the politics of race, sexuality, social class, nation, and disability”. Information on the [conference site](#) or visit the [discussion forum](#).

Jobs

Regional Director, WAGGGS Europe Region- Deadline: 2 April 2009. If you are interested in this opportunity, please download further details of this position from WAGGGS’ website - www.wagggsworld.org

The **ILGA-Secretariat** is looking to hire a **Finance, Administration and Organisational support Officer**. Go on <http://www.ilga.org/> to get more information or send your application form to: Patricia Curzi, patriciacurzi@ilga.org. Deadline for applications is 08.03.09. **ILGA-Europe** is also looking for a **Communications Officer**. Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday, 13th March, 2009. Click [here](#) to get more information.

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is recruiting **interim Policy Manager**. Please see the [job description](#) for details, and/or submit your application to jobs@epha.org 1 March 2009.

Donations to the EWL

*Do you share the vision and commitment of the EWL? Do you want to support the achievement of equality between women and men and promote women's human rights in Europe? You can make a difference by **supporting the EWL financially**. Every contribution, however small, is an encouragement to the EWL to continue fulfilling its mission. Please, click [here](#) for more information.*