

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MWIA



Update

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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

THEME OF THE 2013-2016 TRIENNIUM

“PREVENTION AND ELMINATION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE”

I. MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Professor Kyung Ah Park, Korea

I have travelled quite a distance during the past three months with a mission to work for MWIA as President of the Association.

In September, we had an executive meeting in Toronto on the 24th and 25th with many important agenda items. One of the most important was the topic of Preparing for MWIA's Centennial Meeting. Ongoing plans will make the centennial a meaningful and memorable event for members.

On October 14th I participated in the annual meeting of the World Medical Association (WMA) in Moscow and had an opportunity to give a talk to introduce MWIA to the members of WMA. It was the first chance to present MWIA to WMA.

On October 23rd I was happy to accept the kind invitation from Medical Council of Sao Paulo to join the symposium on 'Violence.' I gave keynote lecture with the title of "How to eliminate domestic violence?" It was very good opportunity to get to know the members of MWIA in Latin America.

The Central Asian Regional Meeting of MWIA was held in Kolkata, India, from 5th to 6th December, 2015. It was a successful meeting and the members were very engaged in the scientific presentations and discussions. Participants were from US, UK, Japan, Korea as well as the two countries of the region, Thailand and India. The Indian hospitality was excellent and the members from abroad were so happy to be cared for so well. Birthing kits which had been prepared by Canadian Zonta Club were donated to the Mission Hospital of the West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India (AMWI). Dr. Atsuko Heshiki and Dr. Bong Ok Kim helped me get the birthing kits from Toronto to Kolkata.

On a personal note, I lost my mother who was my best friend all through my life. She was the first female anatomist in Korea and the third President of the Korean Medical Women's Association and a member of MWIA since 1958. I feel comfortable now with the loving condolences from my friends including MWIA sisters.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to celebrating 2016 with you in Vienna at our 30th International Meeting July 28-31, 2016.

2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada

After our involvement with WHO's **Safe Childbirth Checklist**, it is a pleasure to announce that has been released.

Dr. Claudia Garcia-Moreno, a member of the WHO staff with whom MWIA has been working on **Violence Against Women**, has made the news in the Lancet calling for more political action in the fight against violence. For more information on these WHO activities, please see Dr. Fabre's report later in the Update.

MWIA took up the invitation by UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon's and his Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women to "**Orange the world: End violence against women and girls.**" From November 25 to December 10 all MWIA tweets were out under the orange coloured logo.

MWIA's **Vienna 2016 International Congress** is only six months away. Abstracts are being reviewed. Registrations are coming in. Please stop and make your plans now and start by registering today at www.mwiavienna2016.org.

It is not too soon to think of how you will celebrate the **MWIA Centennial in 2019**. Please plan to hold a centennial activity in your national association the year of 2019. **There is an opportunity to host the Centennial Congress in 2019. Watch for the call for the venue in the Second Special Update coming out in January.**

The last two regional meetings of the Triennium have taken place and both were a resounding success. Brussels saw the members of the **Southern European Region** gather in the Brussels Parliament to hear about The Brain in 2015, as terrorism struck Paris the evening before. Members from the **Central Asia Region** enjoyed an excellent session in Calcutta on the theme of "Independent Women Our Aim," speaking to the need for gender equality and empowerment, themes that MWIA has constantly advanced.

The 60th **Commission on the Status of Women** will take place at the United Nations in New York from March 14-24, 2016. The priority theme is Women's Empowerment and its link to sustainable development. The review theme is The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. MWIA will be holding a parallel event, organized by **Drs. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Padmini Murthy**.

MWIA is pleased to hear that **Dr. Edith Schratzberger**, our MWIA representative to the **European Women's Lobby** (EWL), will be running for President of EWL this coming year. For those of you involved with the EWL, please lend your support at voting time.

Let me remind you that the **fiscal year** for MWIA is July 1st to June 30th. Dues notices were sent out in July. Voting at the Vienna Congress in July, 2016, is dependent on the number of members from your national organization. Thank you to those who have paid

and to those who have not yet done so, we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

The website has a secure site for the National Coordinators. The information for the upcoming Vienna 2016 congress will be found on this secure site.

Contact information for MWIA:

Website is www.mwia.net
Email is secretariat@mwia.net
Phone is [1-604-522-1960](tel:1-604-522-1960)

3. VIENNA 2016 UPDATE

Professor Bettina Pfliederer, Chair International Scientific Committee

Review process of abstracts for the congress in Vienna just started

Over 125 abstracts from all over the world have been submitted for the 30th MWIA International Congress in Vienna. The local organizing committee chaired by Professor Margarete Hochleitner, in close collaboration with the International Scientific Committee, chaired by MWIA's President-elect Professor Bettina Pfliederer, has just started the review process. All abstracts have been accepted to be presented in Vienna; however, whether a given abstract will be a talk or a poster will be decided after the review process. The abstract review is expected to be completed by the end of January, 2016. There are many interesting contributions and it will be a stimulating meeting. In addition to talks there will also be several workshops. The local organization committee is very much looking forward to seeing you all in Vienna!!!

National Membership on MWIA Committees

There is an opportunity to serve on various committees within the Organization. Committees can be a nucleus for new topics for discussion.

There are three standing committees: Ethics and Resolution, Scientific and Research Finance, as well as some ad-hoc committees. Application forms for the committees, their Terms of Reference and deadlines for applying will be posted on the website in Spring 2016.

Please remember to register at <http://www.mwiavienna2016.org>. Vienna is very busy in summer. Please remember to book your flight and accommodation early.

4. 2013-2016 EXECUTIVE with email addresses:

President	Prof Kyung Ah Park, Korea	president@mwia.net
Past President	Prof Afua Hesse, Ghana	past_president@mwia.net
President Elect	Prof Bettina Pfliederer, Germany	president_elect@mwia.net

Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
VP Northern Europe	Dr. Helen Goodyear, UK	VP_northerneurope@mwia.net
VP Central Europe	Prof Khatuna Kaladze, Georgia	VP_centraleurope@mwia.net
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Christiane Pouliart, Belgium	VP_southerneurope@mwia.net
VP North America	Dr. Carole Williams, Canada	VP_northamerica@mwia.net
VP Latin America	Prof Mercedes Viteri, Ecuador	VP_latinamerica@mwia.net
VP Near East/Africa	Prof Shafika Nasser, Egypt	VP_africa@mwia.net
VP Central Asia	Dr. Usha Saraiya, India	VP_centralasia@mwia.net
VP Western Pacific	Prof Hiroko Yamamoto	VP_westernpacific@mwia.net



The Medical Women's International Association Executive 2013-2016

Front row left to right: Shelley Ross, Bettina Pfleiderer, Kyung Ah Park, Afua Hesse

Back row left to right: Mercedes Viteri, Carole Williams, Hiroko Yamamoto, Khatuna Kaladze, Shafika Nasser, Christiane Pouliart, Gail Beck, Bong Ok Kim, Helen Goodyear

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Australia

AFMW President Dr. Sharon Tivey writes in her newsletter that "I am pleased to advise that AFMW, in partnership with the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA), have been able to facilitate the delivery of 25 ultrasound machines to be used in places such as Nigeria (20 machines), Tanzania and Afghanistan. In addition, education sessions have been organised in Nigeria to facilitate better use of these machines. We hope that many women and their families benefit as a result of their doctors obtaining this equipment. AFMW hopes to continue this initiative in 2016. We are thankful for the support of MWIA with this initiative. A huge thanks to Dr Gaye Casper (NSW) who has been the lead in this.

We are also looking at another grant application to facilitate compiling a history of medical women. There are numerous non-medical supporters of such work and we hope we are successful.”

Brazil

Brazil continues to host scientific meetings:

October saw the topic of Menopause and November Women in Brazilian Art: Tarsila do Amaral.

On October 23, The Regional Council of Medicine, State of São Paulo, organized a full day symposium on “Bioethics and Violence against Women.”

Dr Kyung Ah Park, President of MWIA, was one of the invited speakers. Her subject was” How can we eliminate familiar violence.” ABMM was represented by various directors such as Dra. Marilene Mello and Dra. Maite Sevillano.

The elections for the executive of 2016-2018 of ABMM were on December 10.

The new President is Fatima Regina Alves and Vice President is Marilene Melo.

We are looking forward to meeting our colleagues in Vienna in July.

Canada

Three members of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada have been elected to Canada’s federal government. Dr. Hedy Fry continues to represent Vancouver Centre. Two have been appointed to the gender equal cabinet of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Dr. Jane Philpott is the federal Health Minister and Dr. Carolyn Bennett is the Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/canadian-prime-minister-justin-trudeau-appoint-gender-equal-cabinet-n457146>

India

The Central Asia Regional Conference of MWIA was held in Kolkata, India on December 5-6, 2015. The previous one was held at Chang Mai, Thailand, in October 2012.

It was hosted by the West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India, which was founded in 1907. The MWIA was well represented by the President, Dr. Kyung Ah Park, Past President, Dr. Atsuko Heshiki, Dr. Bong O Kim, Chair Scientific Committee, and Dr. Padmini Murthy, one of MWIA’s Representatives to the United Nations. Dr. Amanda Owen, Medical Womens Federation National Coordinator, came from the UK.

There were over 150 delegates, mostly from West Bengal, in addition to 8 from Mumbai and 8 from Nagpur.

The Scientific Sessions were very well planned with excellent speakers. There were six Orations and several Guest Lectures. Dr. Park gave the Conference Oration. The subject was “Domestic Violence” and it was very well received. Dr. Usha Saraiya gave the prestigious Marie Catchatoor Oration and Thailand was selected for the Jhirad Oration. The multidisciplinary lecture programme was appreciated by all.

The social program included a wine party hosted by Dr. Saraiya and a Welcome Dinner for all the delegates from out of town. A gala dinner and entertainment program of Folk Dances from various parts of India were enjoyed by all the delegates. The International delegates were able to do sightseeing and shopping during their brief stay.

This conference created goodwill and friendship towards all MWIA Members. Dr. Park personally requested all of them to take part in MWIA activities and attend the Triennial Conference scheduled for July, 2016, in Vienna.

The AMWI wishes to thank the Executive for giving them the opportunity and the support to conduct the meeting.

Birthing Kits were presented to the Mission Hospital of Calcutta on behalf of MWIA by Drs. Park, Heshiki and Kim.

Georgia

On December 12th, the Georgian Medical Women held a conference in Telavi. The topic was “Modern aspects of treatment of internal diseases.” There was also a workshop for family doctors on “New capabilities of metabolic surgery.”

United Kingdom

There are changes in the Junior Doctor Contract that will negatively affect women. The Medical Women’s Federation has been active to get this changed. Please follow the link below for the response from the NHS Confederation regarding an Equality Impact Assessment of the proposed changes to the Junior Doctor Contract.

<http://medicalwomensfederation.org.uk/about-us/news-blogs-competitions/411-freedom-of-information-request-response>

United States

AMWA Executive Director Dr. Eliza Chin reports that “AMWA recently co-hosted the Sex and Gender Medical Education Summit which brought together world-renowned experts in the field of sex and gender based medicine with curriculum leaders from over 100 medical institutions.

The first of its kind, this Summit was a national collaboration dedicated to engaging educational thought leaders in creating a roadmap to integrate sex and gender based evidence into medical and inter-professional education. The Summit was co-sponsored by AMWA, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health, the Mayo Clinic, the Society for Women's Health Research, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the Sex and Gender Women's Health Collaborative, Verizon, Brown University Division

of Sex and Gender in Emergency Medicine, and Duke School of Medicine Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Information about the Summit: sgbmeducationsummit.com

View the webcast here: <http://services.choruscall.com/links/sexandgender2015/>

Code: 091885

During the summit, participants worked to: (1) Analyze the current climate of sex and gender education in medical schools, with a special focus on sex and gender based health disparities, (2) Assess curricular resources that can be utilized within medical schools or as interprofessional resources, (3) Identify facilitators and barriers to translating sex and gender difference research into evidence-based clinical practice, and (4) Determine how best to address present and future needs to bridge the gaps and disparities between sex and gender medical education and clinical practice.

The outcome of the Summit will be the creation and publication of national student competencies focusing on sex and gender based health. The overarching goal for the Summit is the establishment or adoption of dedicated sex and gender education curricula in all U.S. medical schools within the next five years.

AMWA leaders were integral in the support and planning of the Summit: AMWA Executive Director, Dr. Eliza Chin (Summit Co-Chair), AMWA President Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber (Senior Advisory Committee), and AMWA President-elect Dr. Kim Templeton (Planning Committee). Thanks also to the many AMWA members who helped in the planning and coordination of the Summit and the outreach to medical schools across the nation.

6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S UN REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy

Drs. Keswani and Murthy have been representing MWIA at the various UN activities, including various meetings and conferences to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the UN.

In October, 2015, Dr. Murthy attended the UN @70 celebration at the NGODPI resource center. She participated in the program and gave a brief summary of the activities MWIA has been undertaking in the content of addressing MDG 4, 5 and SDG 3.

In October, 2015, Dr. Murthy represented MWIA at a Peace Concert organized by the UNDP and Mission of South Korea to the UN to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

MWIA has partnering with Zonta International and has sent 600 birthing kits to Malawi and Grenada.

Dr. Murthy has been working with Wigs Without Borders and has been able to ship over 300 wigs to Malawi, India and Grenada to assist survivors of breast cancer who have lost their hair.

Drs. Keswani and Murthy are organizing the MWIA parallel event at the upcoming 2016 CSW in New York in March.

7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO

Dr. Clarissa Fabre

One of our contacts at the WHO, **Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno** was the lead author of a recent paper in the Lancet '**Addressing Violence against women: a call to action**' <http://raisingvoices.org/website/uploads/2013/02/Calltoaction.16days2014.LancetVAWSeries.pdf> It is an excellent summary of the current situation and emphasises the importance of political leadership and government investment as essential components to reducing violence against women. As doctors we are in an excellent position to approach sympathetic politicians who will raise the issue at the highest level and initiate the formation of an effective action plan. The health sector has a crucial part to play both in the prevention of and response to violence against women and children. For too long we have been uncoordinated and have largely sat on the sidelines.

The WHO has just launched the **Safe Childbirth Checklist** after a successful pilot in 29 countries, one of which was Nigeria. We are very proud that MWIA's Dr Rosemary Ogu led the pilot in several obstetric units there. The checklist was devised by the Harvard School of Public Health and was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The aim is to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality. For more details see <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/implementation/checklists/childbirth/en/>

One of the UN Millenium development goals was to cut maternal mortality by 75% between 1990 and 2015. However, only a 44% reduction has been achieved. Ten countries (Belarus, Cambodia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Poland, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, and Turkey) managed to achieve the target. Two in three maternal deaths now occur in sub-Saharan Africa, so that is where the major improvements are needed to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality. An effective Safe Childbirth Checklist would be a simple and very useful tool to help achieve this.

Twenty experts convened by the Harvard Global Health Institute and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine published a report in the Lancet recommending that the WHO should be stripped of its role in declaring disease outbreaks to be an international emergency. This follows its catastrophic failure to warn the world of the dangers of Ebola in West Africa last year. The report calls for far greater accountability and transparency within global health institutions. While there is strong criticism of the WHO, the focus of the report is on shoring up its strengths while farming out crucial

decisions potentially influenced by political considerations. When to declare that an epidemic is an international emergency is one of those areas.

8. REPORT FROM EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr. Edith Schratzberger

The Board and the Executive of the EWL met October 23-25, 2015.

Apart from finances and financial sustainability the issues at the EWL Executive meeting and at the Board meeting were violence against women and the refugee crisis in Europe with its implications for women - for instance the risk to be the subject of violence and/or sexual abuse for female refugees. The need to guarantee basic human rights was emphasized. EWL might either form a working group or a task force on the topic 'refugees in Europe.'

Another issue was the feminist summer school which was organized for the first time last summer and was a great success. There was consensus that it is extremely important to get in contact with the young generation and the 'AGORA' summer school was an excellent way to do this and was well accepted by the attending young women.

9. REPORT FROM THE WHO EMRO COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Mervat ElRafie

I had the pleasure of representing MWIA at the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee Meeting that took place in Kuwait from October 5-8, 2015. It was a very comprehensive meeting, covering a wide variety of issues including food safety, social health insurance, universal health coverage, malaria action plan, social determinants of health, prevention and control of non-communicable disease, international health regulations, emergency preparedness, prevention of H5Na virus, prevention of viral hepatitis, polio eradication, mental health and MDGs passing onto SDGs.

10. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

2016

1. **March 10-13, 2016** Miami, Florida
Annual meeting of the American Medical Women's Association
Hilton Miami Airport, 5101 Blue Lagoon Drive, Miami
www.amwa-doc.org

2. **April 28-39, 2016** Buenos Aires, Argentina
World Medical Association Council Meeting
Sheraton Buenos Aires
www.wma.net
3. **May 13, 2016** Edinburgh, Scotland
Medical Women's Federation Spring Meeting
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Pollack Halls, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
4. **May 16-19, 2016** Copenhagen, Denmark
Women Deliver Conference
Bella Centre, Copenhagen
www.wd2016.org
5. **May 30-June 1, 2016** Seoul, Korea
DPI/NGO Conference
<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/>
6. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria
30th International Congress of MWIA
The theme is Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors
www.mwiavienna2016.org
7. **October 19-22, 2016** Taipei, Taiwan
World Medical Association General Assembly
Grand Hyatt, Taipei, Taiwan
www.wma.net
8. **November 2-6, 2016**, Riocentro-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
21st World Conference of Family Doctors
http://www.wonca2016.com/ingles/trabalhos/index_atividades_cientificas.php#c
9. **November 14-16, 2016**, Vancouver, Canada
Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
<http://healthsystemsglobal.org/>
For an opportunity for funding in order to attend, visit
<http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/news/2015/HSRCall.pdf?ua=1> before February 19th
10. **November 23-25, 2016**, Moscow, Russia
Central European Regional Meeting
Details to follow

2017

1. **March 8, 2017 (tentative date)**, Panama
Latin American Regional Meeting of MWIA.
Information will be on www.mwia.net when available
2. **May 10-13, 2017**, London, UK
Northern European Regional Meeting
Theme: 100 years of Medical Women: Past, Present and Future.
In Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation
www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk
3. **Date to be decided**
Western Pacific Regional Meeting
Hong Kong
Information will be on www.mwia.net when available

11. NAMES IN THE NEWS

Dr. May Cohen of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada has been selected for induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. Dr. Cohen was responsible for the success of MWIA's Gender Mainstreaming in Health Manual. Congratulations Dr. Cohen! Her biography is available at WWW.CDNMEDHALL.ORG/INDUCTION

Dr. Susan Harris was a member of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada before her untimely death. Her family has developed the Sue Harris Family Practice Knowledge Dissemination Grant to support family practice research in women's health.

Dr. Michael Marmot of the Social Determinants of Health fame has become President of the World Medical Association.

Dr. Louella McCarthy from the University of Wollongong, Australia, is the 2015 Fellow of the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine. She spoke at the tenth anniversary of the Archives for Women in Medicine on the topic of *Born International: Women, Medicine and Modernity*.

Dr. Aruna Thakar, a past president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, was honoured by having a street named after her in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where she practiced psychiatry for many years.

12. OBITUARIES

Dr Juhana E. Idänpään-Heikkilä, the Secretary General of CIOMS from 2000-2006, passed away in Finland in October, 2015. (MWIA sits on the executive of CIOMS.)

13. **BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

British Medical Journal. Women's, children's and adolescents' health:
<http://www.bmj.com/content/women%E2%80%99s-children%E2%80%99s-and-adolescents%E2%80%99-health-0>

Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine. Joint Position Paper on Rural Surgery and Operative Delivery was recently published in CRJM. This JPP is a historic co-operation between the CFPC, SOGC, Society of Rural Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Association of General Surgeons. <http://www.srpc.ca/PDF/cjrm/vol20n4/pg129.pdf>

China to end one child policy
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/30/world/asia/china-end-one-child-policy.html?_r=0

Lancet Violence Against Women SERIES: <http://www.thelancet.com/series/violence-against-women-and-girls> and the call to action <http://raisingvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/CalltoAction.16Days2014.LancetVAWSeries.pdf>

Murnane, Dr. Merrilyn, a retired pediatrician in Melbourne. *Honourable Healers: Pioneering Women Doctors*. The book covers the lives of Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Constance Stone—three women from three continents. Read their stories in [Honourable Healers](#).

New Bride Dies after Forced by In-Laws to Swallow Acid over Insufficient Dowry.
<http://gandhara.rferl.org/content/pakistan-bride-killed/27276986.html>

Northern Ireland has made its first arrest under the new law against paying for sex.
<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/05/northern-ireland-offence-of-paying-for-sex-first-arrest>

USAID. Beyond Access: Toolkit for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Prevention & Response into Education Projects.

[https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1865/beyond-access-toolkit-integrating-gender-based-violence-prevention-and-response?ct=t\(2015_2_2_GGU_copy_04_1_27_2015\)](https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1865/beyond-access-toolkit-integrating-gender-based-violence-prevention-and-response?ct=t(2015_2_2_GGU_copy_04_1_27_2015)) and https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/USAID_ADVANTAGE_GBV_Education_Toolkit-Final.pdf

II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

1. Global Standards for quality **health care services for adolescents** have been released. <http://apps.who.int/adolescent/second-decade>
http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/adolescence/graphics/en/
2. Recommendations for prevention and treatment of **maternal peripartum infections** have been launched. <http://goo.gl/X01AqP> with a commentary in The Lancet Global Health: <http://goo.gl/5iBHzA>
3. Women with **HIV/AIDS** will receive added benefits from the [new guidelines on when to start ART among PLHIV and on PrEP](#).

2. United Nations

1. UNICEF has published the **State of the World's Children 2015** Reimagine the Future
http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2015_Summary_and_Tables.pdf
2. The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly recently approved a **resolution on youth** ((document A/C.3/70/L.11/Rev.1), creating the nexus between the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) and the recently adopted Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.
3. There is a website for the **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women**.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/SRWomenIndex.aspx>
Dubravka Šimonović called all member states to establish a femicide watch.
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16796&LangID=E>
4. The report on the **World's Women 2015** has been released.
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/report.pdf>
5. The UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of **Cultural Rights** has a website.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/MandateInfo.aspx>
6. The **MDG6 Target** to Reduce Malaria Burden was achieved.
7. The theme for the 2015 **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** on November 25th and of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign's 16 days call for action was **Prevention**. The first UN Framework on Preventing Violence against Women has recently been launched. This document stems from the collaboration of seven UN entities: UN Women, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and WHO. The framework develops a common understanding for the

UN System, policymakers and other stakeholders on preventing violence against women and provides a theory of change to underpin action. - See more at:

[#sthash.IKpoei2F.dpuf](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism)

8. The report on the **State of the World's Population** has been published at:

http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/sowp/downloads/State_of_World_Population_2015_EN.pdf

9. A letter went out December 15th, calling for nominations for the next **UN Secretary General** and in the normal rotation, Eastern Europe is due to provide the candidate. Members are encouraged to include the names of women as well as men.

3. International Papillomavirus Conference

The workshops from this conference can be found at <http://simul-europe.com/2015/hpv/>

4. **White Ribbon Alliance** had a commentary related to mistreatment of women at birth and respectful care published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1471-0528.13750/abstract>

5. The US Civil Society **shadow report on Beijing +20** can be found at

<http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/reports/2015/Womens-Rights-at-Home-and-Abroad-Report.pdf>

6. The **Centre for Health and Gender Equity** has issued a report on the right to safe motherhood.

Download the full report here: bit.ly/MHThematic

Download a summary of the report here: bit.ly/MHOnePager

7. **WONCA** states that their annual report can be found on [our website](#).

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mark your calendars now for the 30th MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016. Registration is open at www.mwivienna2016.org. **The call for abstracts has closed.**

The next Update will be published in March, 2016. Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2016, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.

On behalf of the Executive of MWIA, let me wish you and yours a time filled with peace, relaxation, family and friends over this holiday season. We hope to meet many of you in Vienna in July as we gather around the theme of **Generation Y**.