

*MEDICAL WOMEN'S  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION*

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*MWIA*



*Update*

**No. 21 January 2004**

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Website: <http://www.mwia.net>

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## I. MWIA



### 1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all MWIA members had a pleasant holiday season and that you are now making plans to attend the MWIA International Congress being held July 28 to August 1, 2004, at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo. Dr. Yoko Hashimoto and Dr. Atsuko Heshiki and their organizing committee have planned an excellent meeting at reasonable cost. The theme is Medicine in a New Life Style—Education, Research and Practice. To register, go to [www.ics-inc.jp/mwia2004/](http://www.ics-inc.jp/mwia2004/).

With six months to go in this current triennium, the MWIA executive would like to thank all members for their active participation in the projects initiated by MWIA.

Many members have now had the opportunity to attend a workshop on **Gender Mainstreaming in Health**. The words, "gender mainstreaming," were once unfamiliar, but thanks to the workshops, physicians now have a better understanding of how gender influences health and health care delivery. With this knowledge, they can implement necessary changes into their own practices and also influence those who set health policy.

HIV/AIDS continues in epidemic proportions. This past year, a great deal of attention was given to those who died from SARS, yet everyday many more people die from HIV/AIDS, without evoking any media attention. MWIA has focused on **Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Plus**. The "Plus" includes looking after the mother and child living with HIV/AIDS. Many of our member organizations have taken up this project in varying ways.

The first draft of the **Training Manual for Adolescent Sexuality** is finished. The manual emphasizes physician attitudes and skills and outlines the knowledge necessary to provide this aspect of care. The manual is not intended to be a textbook on sexuality, but includes information on what knowledge is necessary to provide this aspect of care.

Just like women's health is much more than just reproduction, adolescent sexuality is much more than birth control and sexually transmitted infections. The adolescent also needs the skills, attitude and knowledge to make appropriate decisions.

Thank you to those members who attended the FIGO meeting in South America and ensured that Dr. Dorothy Shaw, one of our long-time members, was elected to the position of President-elect of this international body of obstetricians and gynaecologists.

Since our last Update, I have had the opportunity to represent MWIA at the World Medical Association (WMA) meeting in Helsinki, Finland. WMA's main work has been the Helsinki Declaration, which deals with ethics and medicine. They are now moving into the area of patient safety. While in Helsinki, I had the pleasure of meeting with members of the Finnish Medical Women's Association.

In November, I attended the Central Asia Regional Meeting, which was the final regional meeting of this term. Dr. Tulsi Basu and her organizing committee from the West Bengal Branch of the Association of Medical Women in India (AMWI) did a tremendous job and are to be congratulated on an excellent meeting. Thank you to all our Indian colleagues for their warm hospitality. Visiting Calcutta gave me the opportunity to see the AMWI Mission Hospital, run through the volunteer efforts of the physicians of the West Bengal Branch. Please keep the Mission Hospital in mind when looking for fund-raising projects. An excellent service is provided by the Mission Hospital to those least able to access medical care.

Prior to meeting in Tokyo, MWIA will take part in the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York in March, where the topics are: "The role of men and boys in gender equality," and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post conflict peace building." The first topic fits well with MWIA's interest in gender mainstreaming.

WHO will hold its annual World Health Assembly in Geneva in May, at which MWIA will participate as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to our Secretary-General, Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, and her staff, who work tirelessly on your behalf. Ute Hoffman is currently on maternity leave and I would like to congratulate her on the safe delivery of her son.

I would also like to thank all the executive committee who take time from their regular jobs to work for MWIA.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of MWIA for your ongoing commitment to improving the health of all in the communities in which you work. Best wishes for a healthy, happy, productive 2004!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president. I look forward to seeing you all in Tokyo.

Shelley Ross, M.D.  
President, MWIA

## 2. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL

Dear all,

First of all, some pleasant news: On 26 December 2003 Ute Hoffmann gave birth to a healthy boy named Sami. Ute is still on maternity leave but will be back in the office on 23 February, early enough to join us for the final preparations for the Tokyo congress. A special thanks goes to Marita Poehner for her tireless commitment to keep the Secretariat running smoothly these days. She is literally working for two.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many warm, grateful and encouraging Season's Greetings we received in the Secretariat.

As regards the Tokyo congress, the most important documents have already been mailed to the member countries (valid Statutes and By-laws, motions, list of candidates, etc.). We are in constant e-mail contact with the congress Secretariat in Tokyo. Should you have any queries or require any information concerning the congress, you may directly contact the congress secretariat in Tokyo at [mwia2004@ics-inc.co.jp](mailto:mwia2004@ics-inc.co.jp).

Once again we would like to point out that in Tokyo we will have to agree on the congress venue for 2007. Until today, five countries have expressed interest in hosting this special and important MWIA event in their country: France, Ghana, India, Italy and Switzerland. Should anybody have any questions re this matter, please contact the Secretariat ([secretariat@mwia.net](mailto:secretariat@mwia.net)) at any time.

As you all may know, the **manual on Gender Mainstreaming is already available** on our **homepage ([www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net))**. **The new manual on Adolescent Sexuality could also be added recently**. Please check our homepage regularly for any news.

Since my last report I have had the opportunity to represent MWIA at the European Women's Lobby (EWL) in Brussels (see report under EWL).

I am already looking forward to meeting as many colleagues as possible in Tokyo.

Yours,

Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus  
Secretary-General, MWIA

### 3. MWIA CONGRESS, TOKYO, 2004

#### REMINDER FROM THE MWIA SECRETARIAT IN DORTMUND

**1. Dates** July 28 – August 1, 2004 at the Keio Plaza Inter-Continental Tokyo, Japan

#### **2. Timetable**

In order to help you plan your travel arrangements we wish to inform you of the dates of the most important events in Tokyo. See the timetable below:

<b>Tuesday 27 July</b>	<b>Wednesday 28 July</b>	<b>Thursday 29 July</b>	<b>Friday 30 July</b>	<b>Saturday 31 July</b>	<b>Sunday 1 August</b>
Committee Meeting	Opening Reception	Symposium	General Assembly	Symposium	General Assembly
Executive Meeting	General Assembly	Leadership Workshop		Gender Workshop	New Executive Meeting
Orientation Session					

#### **3. Deadline for Abstracts**

The date for receipt of abstracts (electronic submission) is **February 28, 2004**

#### **4. Format for Abstracts**

- Abstract must be in English and the text should be single spaced, double space between paragraphs, using Times New Roman size 12 point, typed in MS Word.
- Title of the paper: at the center on the top of page, using 14 point Times New Roman in bold.
- The name of the presenting author should be underlined.
- Diagram or photo, if any, should be attached to the original.
- Contents: Title of paper, full name of author(s), their affiliations, addresses, telephone, facsimile and e-mail address.
- Length: abstract (less than 300 words in the length or 200 words if a table or a figure is included)
- Margin: 25mm at top and bottom, and 20mm on right and left sides of A4 size paper (210mm x 297mm)

#### **5. Contact Addresses**

Congress Website: <http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/mwia2004>

Congress Secretariat: International Communications Specialists, Inc.  
Sabo Kaikan Bekkan, 2- 7-4 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo, 102-8646, Japan  
Phone: +81-3-3263-6474  
Fax: +81-3-3263-7537  
E-mail: [mwia2004@ics-inc.co.jp](mailto:mwia2004@ics-inc.co.jp)

Secretary-General of the Congress Organizing Committee:  
Dr. Atsuko Heshiki  
Saitama Med. School, Dept. of Radiology  
38 Morohongo, Moroyamacho  
Irumagun, Saitama 350-0495  
E-mail: [heshiki@saitama-med.ac.jp](mailto:heshiki@saitama-med.ac.jp)

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF POST CONGRESS TOURS

**In addition to the post congress tour listed in the registration brochure for the Tokyo Congress ( KYOTO & NARA 3 DAYS)**

Medical Women's Federation (**MWF United Kingdom**) has arranged a **Post Congress Tour** after the Tokyo Conference. It will start with the official tour from the Keio Plaza Hotel on 1 August and will include an extra day in Kyoto before flying to HANOI, VIETNAM for a 4 night tour on the 5 August. Everybody is welcome to join. Contact:

Dorothy Ward: [dorothyward@onetel.net.uk](mailto:dorothyward@onetel.net.uk) Phone: (+44)-1355248881 Fax: (+44)-1355248886

## 4. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS



**2004**

**5 – 8 February 2004 - San Diego, California, USA**

88th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association Inc (AMWA)

Venue: Hilton Resort Hotel, San Diego, California

For further information contact AMWA at e-mail [info@amwa-doc.org](mailto:info@amwa-doc.org)

**1 – 12 March 2004 – New York, USA**

48th Session of the Commission of Status of Women

Venue: United Nations Headquarter, New York

**21 – 25 March 2004 – Gaborone, Botswana**

CIVICUS World Assembly

For further information please look at <http://www.civicus.org>

**19 – 22 April 2004 – Brighton, United Kingdom**

10th International Congress of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)

Theme: Sustaining public health in a changing world - Vision to action

For further information please look at <http://www.phaworldcongress.com> or contact the Congress secretariat at e- mail: [publichealth@hamptonmedical.com](mailto:publichealth@hamptonmedical.com)

**17 – 22 May 2004 – Geneva, Switzerland**

57th Session of the WHO World Health Assembly

Contact: WHO, 20 avenue Appia, CH- 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

**July 2004 - Senegal, Africa**

HIV/ AIDS Conference

For further information please look at <http://www.africa-first.com/eventindex.asp>

**28 July – 1 August 2004 - Tokyo, Japan**

**International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)**

26th International Congress of the Medical Women's International Association

Theme: Medicine in a New Life Style  
- Education, Research and Practice -

Venue: Keio Plaza Hotel, Shinjuku Tokyo

Information: Atsuko Heshiki  
E-mail: [heshiki@saitama-med.ac.jp](mailto:heshiki@saitama-med.ac.jp)  
Website: <http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/mwia2004/>

**14 August 2004- Ontario, Canada**

Annual General Meeting & Scientific Assembly of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC)

For further information contact FMWC at e-mail [fmwcmain@fmwc.ca](mailto:fmwcmain@fmwc.ca)

**2005**

**27 – 30 January 2005, Washington D.C., USA**

89th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association Inc (AMWA)

For further information contact AMWA at e-mail [info@amwa-doc.org](mailto:info@amwa-doc.org)

**September- October 2005, Iceland**

Northern European Regional Congress of MWIA, Iceland

Venue: Grand Hotel Reykjavik

**26 – 28 July 2005 - USA**

5th International Conference & Exhibition on Traditional Medicine at the Minneapolis Convention Center

Theme: "Integrative Medicine in Women's Health"

For further information please look at <http://www.africa-first.com/5thICTM.asp>

**2006**

**Planned**

Near East and Africa Regional Congress of MWIA, Zambia

**2007**

XXVII. MWIA International Congress

Until today the following Associations have shown interest in hosting the next Congress: France, Ghana, India, Italy, Switzerland. The General Assembly in Tokyo will choose the venue by secret ballot.

## 5. NEWS FROM THE VP'S AND/ OR THEIR REGIONS



### **Dr. Marianne Bodenmann-Zanetti, National Coordinator Switzerland**

Our main topic in 2003 were mentoring, the discussion of *Gender Mainstreaming*, our Annual Congress and General Assembly in Berne on 8 November. For more details visit [www.vsa.ch](http://www.vsa.ch). We have also decided that we will apply to host the MWIA Congress in 2007; we would like to welcome MWIA members from all over the world for an exciting reunion in our beautiful country.

The topic of the Annual Congress was *Frau Sucht Perspektiven* which may be translated either as *Woman looks for Perspectives* or as *Woman, Addiction, Perspectives*. We discussed different types of addiction, especially alcoholism, workaholism and compulsive gambling; starting with risk factors (e.g. violence) and protective factors (e.g. good family support in childhood), differentiating male and female drinking behaviour, (smoking habits no longer show any gender differences). Workshops served to improve our counselling abilities.

Mentoring continues to be valuable; finding her life-work balance or planning her individual scientific career are questions for which mentor and mentee collaborate in finding suitable answers. As in other countries, the economical and political situation is difficult; there are restrictions on the possibilities to open new offices, and interesting family-compatible part-time jobs are sparse.

The channels through which we publicize the *Training Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Health* are our quarterly newsletter and presentations to postgraduate meetings for a mixed audience. We consider it particularly important that awareness for this topic is increased among male colleagues.

### **Dr. Charmaine Roye, Vice President North America**

New FIGO President-Elect

"Dr. Dorothy Shaw was nominated as the new president-elect of the executive board of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) at the 2003 Congress in Santiago, Chile. Dr. Shaw is a past-president of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada and is affiliated with the University of British Columbia. Dr. Shaw is the first woman to be elected an officer of FIGO".

### **Dr. Maria Arredondo Herrera, Vice President Latin America**

ARGENTINA – We received Season Greetings from Kumiko Eiguchi for MWIA doctors.

BRAZIL –

New President for Brazil Medical Women's Association 2003-2005.

Dr. Francy Reis da Silva Patricio

Vicepresident, Dr. Vania Vellasco S. De Castro

She informs about Scientific Meetings: "Celula Tronco". Prof. Alice Teixeira. UNIFESP  
Brazil Medical Women's History. Dr. Yvonne Capuano. History Academy of Sao Paulo.

COLOMBIA – Dr. Rina Tapia de Guzman informs about her activities and sends Season Greetings.

MEXICO – The XII National Congress in its XXV Anniversary of FAMMAC was held from 9 to 11 October, 2003 in the National Medical Center of Mexican Social Security, in Mexico City. Theme: "Women and Health". There were present the Presidents and Doctors of each Association. There

were conferences about Gender and Health Care. On 10 October the Executive Committee and the Association's Presidents elected a new President for FAMMAC for 2003 – 2006 :

Dr. Pilar Casas Díaz, Surgery in Gastroenterology

N.C.: Dr. Alicia Guzman

PERU – Dr. Rebeca Kuniyoshi informs about Congress XXVII PAMWA and IV MWIA in MEXICO, 2005.

PANAMA - Dr. Cecilia Lamela sent her paper "Reflection Moments" on the celebration of the Century Anniversary of the separation of Panama from Colombia.

### **Dr. Jyoti Trivedi, Vice President Central Asia**

The usual activities of the Cytology and Slum clinic at Mumbai were carried on. The activities at Kolkata were the routine ones at the Mission Hospitals. At Kolkata, the members of the association were busy with the organization and preparation of the Regional Conference.

Mumbai Branch organised a technician course for doctors and separately for technicians for cytology at the end of August. There were about 40 participants.

On 30th August there was a Scientific Programme and Advani Braganza Oration.

The Scientific Programme was :

1. Attribute to George Papanicolaou highlighting his life and achievements
2. Cancer Control Programme for Maharashtra State, Government of Maharashtra
3. The oration was given by Dr. B.B. Yeole, an eminent expert in Cancer Epidemiology his subject was "Epidemiological Assessment of Cancers in Women in India".

A workshop on Gender Mainstreaming was organised on 6th of September in association with SNTD Women University. The inaugural address and the theme focus was given by me.

A street play on gender mainstreaming by student of L.T. college of Nursing

On 11th October, a programme was held in association with Women's wing of Indian Medical Association and AMWI. The subject was " Dealing with Rough Days" and the topics were as follows:

1. Acne Hirsutism
2. Pathophysiology of PMS
3. Newer Modalities in Managing Premenstrual Tension Syndrome
4. Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding
5. Panel Discussion on "Rough Days in Women's Reproductive Health"

### **Dr. Dorothy Ward, National Coordinator United Kingdom**

The Autumn Council meeting was held in London in November. The main business was the restructuring of MWF. A volunteer working party met with our officers and the facilitator from the Cranfield Trust which advises organisations who wish to modernise their structure. The Past Presidents committee had also met to discuss this subject.

Many new solutions were suggested to try to stop the loss of members and to encourage young women doctors to join MWF. A few are quoted here:

- An E-membership for students.- would we include male students?
- Rename our Spring & Autumn Council meetings and encourage all members to attend a general meeting and a scientific meeting
- Highlight International affairs
- Simplify our objectives (6 at present) to two
- Encourage local associations to give career advice
- Local associations should be in the vicinity of medical schools

- Council would be replaced as the ruling body by an Executive Committee
- Subscriptions should be held at least at their present level

Many of the changes would involve rewriting our Memorandum Articles of the Association and MWIA will be kept informed.

The Council will discuss this “modernisation” at the May Council meeting and a fuller report will be sent to MWIA. Council were made aware that MWF must conform to MWIA’s Statutes and By-Laws if they wished to continue to be affiliated to MWIA.

MWF continues to be consulted by various important Associations and Government within the UK. Our Honorary Secretary consults the membership by Email and sends our responses to relevant party.

Recently we have approached the Department of Health regarding our concern that, although flexible training is accepted the funding of doctors in these posts is not always covered.

A Scientific meeting was held after the November Council Meeting - “Patient Perspective”. Both doctors and patients were included in the speaker’s list and doctors and patients both had better understanding of each others point of view.

Our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester attended.

The topic for the Scientific meeting at May Council will be “Gender, Genes & Genito-urinary Gems”

## **6. CHANGES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS / ADDRESSES, NEW MEMBERS ETC.**

### **Changes of National Officers and/ or Addresses**

#### **Argentina**

##### **National President**

Dra. Gabriela Maltese

E-mail: gabymaltese@hotmail.com

#### **Brazil**

##### **National President**

Dr. Francys Reis da Silva Patricio

Rua Iraúna, 926 – Moema

04518-061 Sao Paulo

Tel.: (+11) 5561-3455

E-mail: francyspatricio@patologia.epm.br

#### **Canada**

##### **National President**

Dr. Zohra Docrat

221 Brant Avenue

Brantford, ON N3T 3J2

Tel.: (+1)-519 753-8666

Fax: (+1)-519 753-3109

E-mail: president@fmwc.ca

#### **Dem. Rep. of Congo**

##### **Individual Member**

Dr. Jeanne Tshibungu

PO Box 752

Dumfries

22026 Virginia

USA

E-mail: drijtshibungo@yahoo.fr

#### **Iceland**

##### **National President**

Dr. Margret Georgsdottir

Frostaskjol 28

107 Reykjavik

Tel. home: (354)-5525648

Tel. work: (354)-5852600

Fax work: (354)-5852601

E-mail: margret.g@isl.is or

margret.georgsdottir@midb.hr.is

#### **Iceland**

##### **National co-ordinator**

Dr. Helga Hannesdottir

18 Trömuholar

111 Reykjavik

Tel.: (+354)-557-7105

Fax: (+354)-543-4813

E-mail: helhann@landspitali.is or

helgah@centrum.is

## **Japan**

### **National President**

Prof. Yoko Hashimoto  
Keio Plaza Inter-Continental Tokyo  
South South Building 1058  
2-2-1, Nishi- Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ki  
Tokyo 160-8330  
Tel. home: (+81)-3-3602-0368  
Tel./Fax work: (+81)-3-3343-0622  
E-mail: office@jmwaw.or.jp

## **Mexico**

### **National President**

Dr. Pilar Casas Díaz  
Jacaranda No. 138  
Nueva Santa Maria, Azcapotzalco  
C.P. 02810 Mexico, D.F. MEXICO  
Tel.: (52+55) 5355 3817  
E-mail: picadiz@yahoo.com, drquintero@yahoo.com

## **New Zealand**

### **National President**

Dr. Joanne Dixon  
4 Jacobsen Lane  
Ngaio  
Wellington  
Tel.: (+64)-4-3855310  
Fax: (+64)-4-3855822  
E-mail: joanne.dixon@ccdhb.org.nz

## **Sudan**

### **Individual Member**

Suad Mohammad Babiker  
P.O. Box 10614  
Khartoum  
E-mail: suadbabiker@hotmail.com

## **Mongolia**

### **Individual Member**

Dr. Vanchinkhuu Surenchimeg  
P.O. Box 295  
Ulaanbaatar 13  
Mongolia 210648  
E-mail: suren\_chimeg@hotmail.com

## **Nigeria**

### **National Co-ordinator**

Dr. Valentina Ideh  
Prime Opticals and Eye Clinic  
41 Airport Rd  
P.O. BOX 538  
Benin-City  
Edo State  
E-mail: tinaideh@hotmail.com

## **Sweden**

### **Nat. President and Nat. Coordinator**

Ingela Heimann  
Violblommegatan 7  
42668 V. Frölunda  
Tel./Fax home: (46)-31-296890  
Tel. work: (46)-303-98500  
Fax work: (46)-31-294133  
E-mail: ingela.heimann@vgregion.se or  
ingelaheimann@hotmail.com

## **Change of E-mail Addresses**

Dr. Lilia Espino y de la Mora  
(National President Argentinean's Women Medical Society)  
The Thai Medical Women's Association  
Claudia Di Nicola  
(President of the Italian Medical Women's Association)

E-mail: liliaespy@yahoo.com.mx

E-mail: tmwa@clickTA.com

E-mail: claudiadinicola@virgilio.it

## **Websites of National Associations**

Australia

<http://www.afmw.org.au>

Belgium

<http://www.mwab.be>

Canada

<http://www.fmwca>

Denmark

<http://www.quindoc.dk>

France

<http://www.affm.org>

Germany	<a href="http://www.aerztinnenbund.de">http://www.aerztinnenbund.de</a>
Iceland	<a href="http://www.icemed.is">http://www.icemed.is</a>
Italy	<a href="http://www.donnemedico.org">http://www.donnemedico.org</a>
Korea	<a href="http://www.kmwa.org">http://www.kmwa.org</a> or <a href="http://www.kmwa.or.kr">www.kmwa.or.kr</a>
New Zealand	<a href="http://www.nzmedicalwomens.co.nz">http://www.nzmedicalwomens.co.nz</a>
Sweden	<a href="http://www.klf.se">http://www.klf.se</a>
Switzerland	<a href="http://www.vsae.ch">http://www.vsae.ch</a> or <a href="http://www.asfm.ch">http://www.asfm.ch</a>
Uganda	<a href="http://www.auwmd.org">http://www.auwmd.org</a>
United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.medicalwomensfederation.co.uk">http://www.medicalwomensfederation.co.uk</a>
United States of America	<a href="http://www.amwa-doc.org">http://www.amwa-doc.org</a>

## 7. DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

The Board of Directors of the **Federation of Medical Women of Canada** has made a generous donation in the amount of CHF 2,986.60 to be used to support one of the MWIA projects.

**Dr. Margret Donnell**, a long-time member of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada and a role model for women in medicine, has bequeathed 2,285.94 Canadian dollars to the Medical Women's International Association. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Donnell.

## II. ORGANISATIONS

### 1. UNITED NATIONS (UN)



### Reports and Extracts from Publications

#### UNFPA state of world population 2003

Over 1.2 billion adolescents - one person in five – are making the transition from childhood to adulthood. How well we prepare them to face adult challenges in a fast changing world will shape humanity's common future. Adolescents must be enabled to avoid early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS while being given skills, opportunities and a real say in development plans, stresses *The State of World Population 2003* report by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Adolescents are a diverse group. Millions of girls in poor countries still get married and give birth in their teens, interrupting their education and endangering their health. For many other girls and boys, the trend is towards later marriage but greater exposure to the risks of unprotected sexual activity. All, whether rich or poor, married or not, urban or rural, in school or out, have a right to information and services to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health. Girls and young women need better protection against discrimination, coercion and gender-based violence.

Actions to ensure these human rights can have tremendous practical benefits, empowering individuals, promoting gender equality, stemming the HIV/AIDS pandemic, reinforcing an uneven global trend towards smaller families, reducing poverty and improving prospects for economic progress, the report shows.

Around the world, innovative programs are teaching adolescents about reproductive health and showing how relevant health services can be made more “youth-friendly” to increase their use.

Laws and policies are being revised to give greater attention to adolescents' needs and rights. Not investing in such efforts will perpetuate poverty, inequality, unsustainable population growth and HIV/AIDS.

Full report will be available at [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

## 2. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)



### WHO/ UNICEF/ UNFPA Country estimates of number of maternal deaths, lifetime risk and maternal mortality ratio for the year 2000

Country's	Number of maternal deaths	Lifetime risk of maternal death: 1 in:	Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
Argentina	590	410	82
Armenia	20	1,200	55
Australia	20	5,800	8
Austria	3	16,000	4
Belgium	10	5,600	10
Benin	2,200	17	850
Bolivia	1,100	47	420
Bosnia & Herzegovina	10	1,900	31
Botswana	50	200	100
Brazil	8,700	140	260
Brunei Darussalam	2	830	37
Bulgaria	20	2,400	32
Burkina Faso	5,400	12	1,000
Burundi	2,800	12	1,000
Cameroon	4,000	23	730
Canada	20	8,700	6
Chad	4,200	11	1,100

China	11,000	830	56
Congo	690	23	510
Dem. Rep. Of Congo	24,000	13	990
Costa Rica	40	690	43
Croatia	4	6,100	8
Cuba	45	1,600	33
Denmark	3	9,800	5
Egypt	1,400	310	84
Estonia	5	1,100	63
Ethiopia	24,000	14	850
Finland	3	8,200	6
France	120	2,700	17
Georgia	20	1,700	32
Germany	55	8,000	8
Ghana	3,500	35	540
Greece	10	7,100	9
Hungary	15	4,000	16
Iceland		0	0
India	136,000	48	540
Iran	1,200	370	76
Iraq	2,000	65	250
Ireland	3	8,300	5
Israel	20	1,800	17
Italy	25	13,900	5
Japan	120	6,000	10
Kenya	11,000	19	1,000
Latvia	10	1,800	42
Mali	6,800	10	1,200
Mexico	1,900	370	83
Mongolia	65	300	110
Namibia	190	54	300
Netherlands	30	3,500	16
New Zealand	4	6,000	7
Nicaragua	400	88	230
Nigeria	37,000	18	800
Norway	10	2,900	16
Pakistan	26,000	31	500
Panama	100	210	160
Peru	2,500	73	410
Philippines	4,100	120	200
Poland	50	4,600	13
Puerto Rico	15	1,800	25
Romania	110	1,300	49
Russia	830	1,000	67
Rwanda	4,200	10	1,400
Saudi Arabia	160	610	23
Serbia & Montenegro	15	4,500	11
Sierra Leone	4,500	6	2,000
South Africa	2,600	120	230
Spain	15	17,400	4
Sudan	6,400	30	590
Swaziland	120	49	370
Sweden	2	29,800	2
Switzerland	5	7,900	7
Thailand	520	900	44

Tunisia	210	320	120
Turkey	1,000	480	70
Uganda	10,000	13	880
Ukraine	140	2,000	35
United Arab Emirates	20	500	54
United Kingdom	85	3,800	13
USA	660	2,500	17
Uzbekistan	130	1,300	24
Zambia	3,300	19	750
Zimbabwe	5,000	16	1,100

Press Release WHO/ 77

### **Thiamine deficient infant formula**

The World Health Organization is informing its Member States of the health risk associated with Remedia brand soya based infant formula. Paediatricians, paediatric nurses and mid-wives should be advised to inform parents of infants on non-dairy formula of the potential risk for thiamine (vitamin B-1) deficiency in this product.

Press Release WHO/ 88

### **World Health Organization welcomes South African Initiative to treat AIDS**

The World Health Organization welcomes the decision by the South African cabinet to approve a comprehensive HIV/ AIDS treatment and care plan for the country. This is a vital step towards tackling AIDS in South Africa. This decision is a key contribution towards saving human lives and achieving the "3 by 5" target of treating three million people living with AIDS in developing countries before the end of 2005.

Statement WHO/ 15

## **3. EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY (EWL)**



### **Dr. Waltraud Diekhaus, Secretary - General**

The European Women's Lobby brings together over 3,000 women's organisations working to achieve equality for women and men and to ensure that gender equality and women's human rights are taken into consideration in all European policies.

EWL is a democratic organisation with transparent procedures of communication, decision-making and accountability. EWL recognises the diversity of women's lives and experiences and aims to include the interests of the many women who face multiple discrimination.

"Working to influence the Convention on the Future of Europe has been of central importance throughout the year, as has our work in relation to employment and social policy, violence against women, monitoring the progress of the proposed new "Gender Directive" and extending our contacts with women in the accession countries," says Lydia la Riviere-Zijdel, EWL President.

And Anna Diamantapoulou states that the Convention is a body reflecting the institutions and groups that make up European society. Institutions, which in their turn, should reflect the opinion of 500 million European citizens.

**How is it possible then that only 17% of the members of the convention are women?" A person with one leg does not walk very far. How far then can Europe really get in the construction of its future, hobbling along without the support of half of its people, the women?", she asks.**

I represented MWIA at the EWL General Assembly in Brussels on 10 – 12 October 2003. On behalf of MWIA I presented the following two motions which were considered most important and were accepted unanimously.

**1. Motion:**

**Theme of the motion:** Gender mainstreaming

**Text of the motion**

Health is a fundamental right and therefore all European countries are urged to introduce a gender perspective into all health policies, health budgets and provisions of health care.

**Aim of the motion:**

Medical care should be provided to all citizens without gender-based discrimination. Gender specificity should be researched in all medical areas. GM in health has the potential to transform existing policies and health delivery services into those that will ensure that no one is denied their fundamental right to health on account of gender.

**2. Motion:**

**Theme of the motion:** Adolescent health

**Text of the motion**

Children and adolescents should get the best possible comprehensive education and healthcare.

**Aim of the motion:**

In recognition that adolescence is a stage of life with specific tasks and challenges (health), education of adolescents has been largely neglected. Adolescents should be provided with specific accessible and confidential health services, especially in the area of reproductive and sexual health. It is a necessity to ensure the enhancement of girls' specific physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development. Research should include attitudes of the physicians and teachers, should improve the knowledge on biology, socialisation, personal development and relationships as well as knowledge about the range of sexual feelings, and should improve skills how to talk to adolescents and how to counsel re sexuality.

## **4. EUROPEAN WOMEN FOR HPV TESTING**

Each year 12,800 European women die needlessly from cervical cancer, a slow-growing yet deadly disease that is 100% detectable and 100% treatable if detected early enough - notably through the introduction of a screening test for the cause of this disease, the human papillomavirus (HPV).

To raise awareness about these facts, European women for hpv testing and the European Institute of Women's Health are sponsoring the first European "HPV Day" on 28 January 2004. On that Day specific events are planned in Dublin, Rome, Paris, Berlin, London and Brussels and we will also

publish a survey of women in 26 European countries about their screening behaviour, their knowledge of cervical cancer and its link to the HPV.

European women for hpv testing will also launch an on-line petition with the aim of collecting one million signatures in favour of an EU-wide introduction of HPV testing.

To sign our petition, click on [www.cancerpetition.com](http://www.cancerpetition.com)!

**Kati Kaskeala**

European Women for HPV Testing

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Tel: +32.2.743.66.25

Fax: +32.2.735.85.28

[www.womenforhpvtesting.org](http://www.womenforhpvtesting.org)

## 5. INTERNATIONAL WEBSITES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### PUBLICATIONS- WEB SITES

#### **EGM Report**

The EGM Report on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality is completed and is available on line at the Division website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>

#### **Book about Adolescent Health**

The British Medical Association book "Adolescent Health" was launched and is available on the BMA website <http://www.bma.org.uk>

#### **Council of Europe publication: Violence against women and children - Vision, Innovation and Professionalism in policing, VIP Guide (2003)**

Order from: <http://book.coe.int/FR/CAT/LIV/HTM/I2048.htm> (English only)

#### **Progress of the World's Women – Volume 2, Gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals**

- New report by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Download from: <http://www.unifem.org/>

**Work and health - DOES GENDER MATTER?** - Report from the event organized by the Swedish Federation of County Councils on the 6th March 2003.

Information: <http://www.lf.se/ag/jamstalldhet/aktuellt.htm#Work%20and%20Health>

#### **Latest Edition of the center for Reproductive rights' map of the world's abortion laws**

Order a copy of "The World's Abortion Laws 2003" from:

<http://www.reproductiverights.org/publications.html>

**New Gender and Women's Health Website** – The Department of Gender and Women's Health of the World Health Organization is charged with helping WHO's various programs and departments undertake the challenge of integrating gender considerations into their work. It is also responsible for researching and disseminating information on neglected topics directly pertaining to women's health, such as gender-based violence against women.

see: <http://www.who.int/gender>

### **Guide to resources for preventing violence**

WHO has published a Guide to United Nations resources and activities for the prevention of interpersonal violence. It provides information on the work of 14 UN agencies and programmes in this area, together with contact data, a bibliography, web site addresses, and the addresses of the relevant databases.

Details and a copy of the Guide are available from [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)

### **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

For more information look at: <http://www.ncadv.org>

### **Jenna Foundation for Non-Violence**

For more information look at: <http://www.jennafoundation.org>

### **Gender and HIV/ AIDS**

Health & Development Networks (HDN), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International AIDS Society's Women's Caucus invite you to join a special e-mail discussion on the Gender-AIDS forum focusing on gender and HIV/ AIDS. For more information please look at the following address:

<http://www.hdnet.org> or <http://www.womenatbarcelone.net>

### **Calendar of forthcoming UN meetings**

An updated calendar of UN meetings of interest to NGOs in consultative status, and other NGO-related information, is now available on the NGO Section's Internet home page at the following address: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo>

### **United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)**

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, which can be accessed at <http://www.unsystem.org/ngls>

### **Chart of the principal organs of the UN System**

The website address is <http://www.un.org/> or <http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html>

### **Vacancies of the WHO**

We would like to remind you of the **vacancies of the WHO** in Geneva and all over the world. You can find current employment opportunities under:

Website: <http://www.who.int/per/vacancies>

## **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **European Medical Student Exchange Programme**

#### Conditions:

- Hosts: members of MWIA Europe  
working themselves as physicians or keeping good contacts to colleagues in practice, hospital, medical-social institutions where students could work.
- Time: 2-4 weeks
- Students: female medical students, not quite at the beginning of studies, a little bit of experience in clinical medicine would be good.  
Students are MWIA members themselves or daughters of MWIA members.  
Eventually we could also accept daughters of friends of members, but there should be a connection to MWIA in any case- perhaps with a recommendation of a member.

Costs: no financial support available  
participants must pay on their own for travel, for insurances and daily living costs  
For students, e. g. from East European countries, who would like to come to Germany, there exists the possibility to get a health-insurance for 1 month. It is available from the "ADAC", which is an automobile-club.

Accommodation: private (in the host-family).  
Meals: depending on the individual conditions: in the family or in the hospital.  
Language: good or some knowledge of the language of the host country would be an asset, but any other (European) language is welcome, too, as long as communication is guaranteed

The national NCs must be informed about what is going on in the programme with "their" students and "their" hosts.

Interested students and members who would like to host students, please contact:

Dr. Marie-Louise Fasshauer

Carnaper Str. 87

42283 Wuppertal, Germany

Tel. office: +49 202 505849

Tel. private: +49 202 500671

Fax office: +49 202 2501296

Letters, phone calls and faxes are welcome in German, English or French.

### **Emergency Contraception**

We have the pleasure of informing you that MWIA is now a member of the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception, whose website is <http://www.cecinfo.org>

**The next Update will be published in August 2004.**

**Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by 16 August 2004 at the latest.**

**Letters to the editor are always welcome.**

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