

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA



# Update

No. 60 December 2014

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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**

Time flies so fast and it is already the end of the year. I hope that all of you had fruitful time through the Women year.

This year, MWIA's focus has been on developing a Training Manual on Gender Based Violence. I greatly appreciate the efforts of Professor Bettina Pfliederer, who is chairing the manual development committee, and the entire executive for their tireless work in making this a reality. Thank you also to Dr. Clarissa Fabre, MWIA's representative to WHO, for making contact with the gender based violence experts at WHO.

This year, I met with the Presidents of the Medical Associations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and Myanmar. I have been in contact with Nepal, Malaysia and Indonesia and I am going to visit these countries in January and February to launch their Medical Women's Associations. This is in the area of membership development which I have repeatedly stated as one of my goals for the triennium.

It was a great pleasure for us that the Medical Women's Association of South Africa has launched this November. From all reports, it sounds like they will be a very active member of the Near East and Africa region.

I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season and Happy New Year.

### **2. REQUESTS FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL**

**Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada**

One of the joys of belonging to MWIA is meeting members from a wide cultural diversity and finding that despite our differences we are really all the same when it comes to the rewards and challenges of practising medicine as a female physician. At this time of year, the importance of balancing home and work is particularly relevant. Whatever your traditions for the holiday season, on behalf of MWIA it is my pleasure to wish you and yours a happy festive season with lots of good times with family.

MWIA is excited to welcome the Medical Women's Association of South Africa back into the fold after approximately a 20 year hiatus. The launch took place the weekend of November 22nd, thanks to the work of Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa. The first chairperson is Dr. Nono Simelela, whose words of greeting you can read under news from the regions.

March 9-20 will be the 2015 Commission on the Status of Women with the theme of Beijing +20. MWIA has applied to do a parallel event, much to the thanks of our

MWIA UN representatives, Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy. There are still a few registration spots available should any members wish to attend.

The American Medical Women's Association will be hitting its 100th anniversary milestone with celebrations in April, 2015. Visit [www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org) for details and do plan to attend.

Although not quite at 100 years, I would like to offer congratulations to both the German Medical Women's Association and the Federation of Medical Women of Canada for reaching their 90th anniversary milestones this year.

It is not too soon to think of how you will celebrate the **MWIA Centennial in 1919**. Please plan to hold a centennial activity in your national association the year of 1919. Plans are underway for our Centennial congress in 1919. A call for abstracts will soon be appearing on the congress website.

Work on the **safe delivery project** with ZONTA is progressing. MWIA is applying to WHO to assess the Safe Childbirth Checklist as part of the project. The aim is to develop sustainable sites where the kits can be delivered on a regular basis. Please contact us if you feel you can provide this continuity. The first box of birthing kits is on its way for use in an internally displaced persons camp outside Kabul, Afghanistan, thanks to Dr. Joanne Young, one of our members from Canada. Dr. Rosemary Ogu is arranging similar sites in Nigeria. .

MWIA signed onto the Women's Rights in Afghanistan campaign organized by Amnesty International UK to support women workers at risk in Afghanistan.

MWIA continues to enjoy Observer Status with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Thank you to Dr. Mini Murthy for inviting MWIA to participate on her radio program, African Views, [www.africanviews.org](http://www.africanviews.org). The topic for December 13<sup>th</sup> was Stop Ebola: A Candid Assessment of US Response to the Ebola Crisis at Home and Abroad.

2015 will provide the opportunity to attend a variety of **MWIA regional meetings**. Please look at the calendar later in the Update for details.

**The website now has a secure site for the National Coordinators.** I am requesting that all National Coordinators please email me their request for the password to the secure site. Contact information for MWIA:

Website is [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net)

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

### 3. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT Professor Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany

As the Chair of the committee that is developing the MWIA Manual on Violence, Dr. Pfleiderer reports that we have received 32 case studies from all corners of the world to be included in the manual so far. She thanks those who sent the cases and supporting this important MWIA project. Currently the committee is working on the outlines for the various chapters to be finalized at the end of January 2015.

### 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 Pfleiderer, Germany	president_elect@mwia.net
Secretary-General	Dr. Shelley Ross, Canada	secretariat@mwia.net
Treasurer	Dr. Gail Beck, Canada	treasurer@mwia.net
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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**

### **Austria**

The annual meeting was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout of 100 members. There were many young participants to listen to topics on Medicine, Beauty and Shame.

Preparations for the “Vienna 2016” International Congress are progressing well. A call for abstracts will soon be on the congress website

at <http://www.mwiavienna2016.org/en/general-information/>

### **Brazil**

The association continues to expand with new local branches due to the work of President Marilene Melo.

The association was part of the September launch of the Pregnancy without Alcohol initiative along with the associations of gynecologists and pediatricians with much media attention.

There have been educational sessions on the topics of obesity, avoidable cancer in women, disorders of motion in women and history of pediatrics in the state of Sao Paulo. The Journal of the Medical Association of Sao Paulo interviewed several directors for an article on Gender Medicine. More topics on gender medicine related to laboratory medicine were Organized by Dr. Melo during the 48th Congress of Clinical Pathology held in Rio in October.

The XXXIInd Pan American Congress of Women Doctors and Latin American Regional Meeting of MWIA will be held in São Paulo March 4-7, 2015. The President of the Congress is Dr Ivone Meinão, who is president of the Sao Paulo Branch.

### **Canada**

In October, Canadian parliament passed a new prostitution bill. By allowing prostitutes to sell sexual services without fear of criminalization, the law will allow them to implement safety measures such as hiring body guards.

### **Egypt**

The Egyptian Medical Women together with the Society for Community Medicine held a workshop at the Suez Canal University under the theme of Prevention of Domestic Violence. This very successful event was well attended including with considerable media coverage.

### **Ghana**

There was a continuing professional education day on the theme of Female Reproductive Rights: Medico legal and Socio-cultural Issues. Topics included gender-based violence and

how to identify an abused person in the clinic.

Six stickers were launched and given to members and branches to post them in their consulting rooms. The representative from the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection delivered a lecture and helped launch the stickers. The immediate past president of MWIA, Prof Afua Hesse, was also present and helped launch the stickers. There was good media presence. Please visit [\\_www.mwagh.org](http://www.mwagh.org) for more information.

Ghana is donating to Project Hope to provide for children in Liberia and Sierra Leona orphaned by the Ebola virus. Other countries are welcome to donate.

### **Kenya**

The Medical Women's Association of Kenya held a scientific symposium in October 2014, on health system strengthening,

### **South Africa**

Dr. Nono Simelela, the first Chairperson of the newly constituted Medical Women's Association of South Africa sends the following greeting to members of MWIA:

To our sisters all over the world—medical women who are members of the Medical Women's International Association. Medical Women who have recently established the South African Association salutes you all and sends our warmth, gratitude and well wishes.

The launch of the Medical Women Association of South Africa took place on the 22-23<sup>rd</sup> November amid great excitement and enthusiasm from the medical women and other institutions who share the same vision with us. The two day summit was full with discussions covering a wide range of topics from issues impacting on women's health and their ability to practice their profession in enabling and supportive environments. Women here in South Africa bear a disproportionate burden of ill-health and are also affected by many other societal challenges that we collectively want to tackle.

We are humbled by your warm welcome and we look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with you. There is much to be done, too much pain in the world—together we can make a difference and perhaps leave our footprint on the souls of nations.

On behalf of MWASA, a very Happy Festive season ahead and let us face the New Year with renewed vigour.

### **Sweden**

The Swedish Medical Women can be proud that their advocacy for the rights of the nation's prostitutes has resulted in Sweden over the last five years dramatically reducing the number of its women in prostitution. In Stockholm, the number has been reduced by two-thirds and the number of johns by 80%

### **United Kingdom**

A law which will see emotional and psychological abuse carry up to 14 years in prison could be in effect next year. This will offer protection to victims of domestic violence

before physical violence actually occurs.

The spring meeting will be in Manchester on May 15, 2015, entitled Stepping Up and Speaking Out; Empowering Women Doctors & their Patients. For more information, visit <http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk/about-us/events/381-stepping-up-speaking-out-empowering-women-doctors-their-patients>

We are supporting the British Pregnancy Advice Service with they're new 'back off' campaign to create buffer zones outside abortion clinics following the recent upsurge in anti-abortion campaigners outside clinics. <http://back-off.org/>

There will be a competition to find the cover images that are used for the two issues of the journal, *Medical Women*, and this competition will be opened up to MWIA members. Visit [www.medicalwomensfederation](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk) for details.

### **United States**

Registration is open for the Centennial meeting being held in Chicago April 23-26, 2015. Visit [www.amwa-doc.org](http://www.amwa-doc.org) to register.

AMWA has a Diversity and Inclusion Committee headed by Dr. Neelum Aggarwal. Among their many activities is the invitation to submit a recipe from your country for the Centennial recipe book. Please send the recipes with a picture of the prepared recipe and your picture to [AMWAdiversityandinclusion1@gmail.com](mailto:AMWAdiversityandinclusion1@gmail.com).

## **6. REPORT FROM MWIA'S UN REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Dr. Satty Gill Keswani and Dr. Mini Murthy**

This has been a busy time at the United Nations with conferences and workshops following the 69<sup>th</sup> General assembly. MWIA was well represented at the UNGASS by Drs. Keswani and Murthy, especially at the NGO events. On October 21st Dr Murthy was invited to be a speaker representing NGOs and academia at a high level event organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information J Michael Adams Conversation Series along with the Secretary General H.E. Ban Ki Moon. Dr Murthy represented MWIA as a speaker and participant at the APHA annual meeting in New Orleans in November 2014 and there were over 12,000 health care professionals from around the world who attended this conference. November 20<sup>th</sup> marked the 25th anniversary of the convention on the Rights of the Child and on 21<sup>st</sup> there was a high level panel discussion moderated by Dr. Murthy, entitled "Education as an Imperative for a transformative post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda" which was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations.

MWIA was represented by Dr Murthy at 2014 Global Health Forum at Taipei as an invited speaker and the conference featured 75 speakers including global health experts and ministers from 30 nations.



Drs. Keswani and Murthy are working on the NGO CSW parallel event to be held during the CSW in March 2015 at the UN. The application for the parallel event has been submitted. We look forward to seeing you in New York in March 2015.

## **7. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY**

### **Dr. Edith Schratzberger**

Having recently met in Lisbon, the board and general assembly of the EWL are focusing on developing their new strategic plan for 2015-2020. They are very interested in violence against women and sexual and reproductive rights.

## **8. REPORT FROM MWIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO WHO**

### **Dr. Clarissa Fabre**

### **Beijing +20 UN ECE Regional Review and Report on the Geneva NGO Forum held in November 2014**

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) includes 56 countries, from North America, Europe and Central Asia. Along with 700 participants from 350 organisations involving the 56 countries of the UN ECE, I attended this Forum on behalf of MWIA. The outcome of the Forum was formally presented to the UN ECE intergovernmental meeting the following day, and will be submitted to the UN Secretary General during the 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2015. It was an inspiring event (<http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch/>).

In 1995 in Beijing, UN member states adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). The Beijing message was clear and as relevant today as 20 years ago: women's rights and gender equality are central to the world's attainment of equality, sustainability, development and peace. The Platform for Action highlighted 12 areas of concern, which included Women and Poverty, Education and Training of Women, Women and Health, Violence Against Women, Women and the Media and The Girl Child.

There are now many laws to advance women but there is a huge implementation deficit. As the Chair of the Forum said 'It is time to move from rhetoric to reality'.

Progress has been significant but uneven. Over the last 20 years, access to education has improved, fewer women die in pregnancy and childbirth, more women have access to contraception, there are increased numbers of women involved in decision-making and there are strong legal and policy frameworks to address a range of issues.

However, we are facing major challenges. In some regions there is stagnation and even reversal of gains. We are seeing shocking levels of violence against women, probably related to increased poverty, the financial crisis, austerity measures, and unemployment. There are too few women involved in politics; the dominant culture is

still one of patriarchy. Stereotypes remain; there has been a backlash through the social media and commoditization of women's bodies. Access to abortion is much more difficult now in some countries, for example Spain, Hungary and Poland. Empowerment of rural women is a particular issue.

We must not always look on women as victims; there must be an emphasis on women's skills. Men need to feel part of the solution. Adult men in positions of influence must enter the debate.

I attended one of the 16 Round table discussions which discussed Human Rights and Migrant Women. Most women migrants are economically active in all areas of the world. Their work is usually low paid and unprotected. There is a high risk of sexual exploitation in the migration process and in the destination countries. We need gender specific migrant legislation policy, and an end to separation of families. With a declining workforce, migration is key to the survival of the developed economy.

### **Where do we go from here?**

Empowerment of girls is the first priority. We must end child early and forced marriage, which has devastating consequences. Every 2 seconds a girl under the age of 18 is married without her consent.

There must be universal access to sexual and reproductive health services. Sexual violence in conflict must be highlighted wherever possible.

Women's political and economic empowerment and engagement is key.

We are on the brink of developing the post 2015 goals. The program for the next 15 years is at present being negotiated. In July 2014 the first set of goals were enumerated, including number 5 'Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,' with many targets on FGM, violence, unpaid care and domestic work, sexual and reproductive rights, women's rights re land, etc. 2015 is a huge opportunity to put women's rights at the centre of the agenda.

The main message of the conference is "implementation, implementation, implementation." We all know what the solutions are—investment and the political will.

### **UK Government annual national consultation with women- Beijing+20: Accelerating Global Gender Equality**

I attended this conference almost immediately on returning from Geneva. What was so valuable was the fact that the Government Ministers were keen to engage with NGO's and civil society (there were about 50 attendees, in a room at the Treasury Building at Westminster).

The Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education, and Minister for Women and Equalities, opened the meeting. She said that ‘Britain is to become an even brighter beacon of equality.’ In June 2014 the Home Secretary criminalized forced marriage. There is still much to be done—more businesses led by women, more women in the top jobs, more girls in schools studying science and technology, tackling the increase in online violence.

Sexual and reproductive health is a high priority. This is one of the few areas where some countries express reservations. They don’t like civil intervention on this, but it is very important to keep the pressure up.

Jo Swinson, Minister for Women and Equalities 2012-2014 spoke about the need to have men involved. Recruiting men to the cause is very important. The UN campaign “He for She” is gaining momentum (<http://www.heforshe.org/>). I would highly recommend that you listen to Harry Potter actress Emma Watson’s speech to the UN [www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-xqeTvD3as](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-xqeTvD3as) , as it is an inspiration.

There is a fear of going backwards—one need only look at experiences of young girls, rape on campus, the rise of pornography, everyday sexism, the expression of very nasty sexist comments online under the cloak of anonymity.

It is essential to bring women’s voices to Government. I would urge readers to identify someone in government who really wants to take the agenda forward. The time for action is now.

## **9. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS MWIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS**

### **2015**

1. **March 9-21, 2015**, New York, NY, USA  
The Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations New York  
Beijing + 20  
<http://www.unwomen.org/co/csw/csw59-2015>
2. **April 16-18, 2015**, Oslo, Norway.  
World Medical Association Council Session  
[www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)
3. **April 24-25, 2015**, Taipei, Taiwan  
Western Pacific Regional Meeting  
Evergreen International Convention Centre  
<http://www.tmwa.com.tw/2015mwia-wprm>

4. **April 24-27, 2015**, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association  
 Celebrating a Century Past and Embracing an Empowered and Innovative Future  
 Palmer House Hilton, Chicago  
<http://www.amwa-doc.org/centennial-meeting-registration/>
5. **May 1-3, 2015**, Harrison Hot Springs Resort, BC Canada  
 Retreat by the Vancouver Branch of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada  
 Contact Dr. Teresa Clarke [drteresaclarke@gmail.com](mailto:drteresaclarke@gmail.com)
6. **July 8-10, 2015**, Accra, Ghana  
 Near East and Africa Regional Meeting  
 The theme is the Obesity Pandemic and Helping the woman and her family  
 Subtheme is Domestic and Sexual Violence
7. **September 25-27, 2015**, Toronto, Canada  
 North American Regional Meeting of MWIA in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada and the executive meeting of MWIA  
 Toronto Sheraton Hotel  
[www.fmwc.ca](http://www.fmwc.ca)
8. **November 15, 2015**, Brussels, Belgium  
 Southern European Regional Meeting  
 Contact Dr. Christiane Pouliart [VP\\_southerneurope@mwia.net](mailto:VP_southerneurope@mwia.net)
9. **December 6-7, 2015** **\*\*please note change of date\*\*\***  
 Central Asia Regional Meeting  
 Calcutta, India

## 2016

1. **July 28-31, 2016**, Vienna, Austria  
 30<sup>th</sup> International Congress of MWIA  
 The theme is Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors  
[www.mwiavienna2016.org](http://www.mwiavienna2016.org)

## 2017

1. May 10-13, 2017, **London, UK**

Northern European Regional Meeting

**Theme:** 100 years of Medical Women: Past, present and future.

In Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Medical Women's Federation

[www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk](http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk)

## 10. NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Henrietta Bowden-Jones** has been elected as the vice president of the Medical Women's Federation of the UK.

**Dr. Deborah German** of the American Medical Women's Association has been awarded the 2014 Alma Dea Morani Renaissance Women Award.

**Dr. Andres de Francisco** has been named Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health upon the departure of Dr. Carole Presern

**Dr Judith Hall** of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada is being inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for her contributions to Pediatrics and Genetics.

**Dr. Alexandra Kalogeraki**, past VP for Southern Europe, has been promoted to Associate Professor in the medical school at the University of Crete.

**Dr Marilene Melo**, President of the Medical Women's Association of Brazil, was awarded a Fellowship of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. She was later honoured during the XXII Latin American Congress of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine for her dedication and collaboration in the speciality, After the tribute, Dr Melo read her paper about "Gender Differences in Stroke."

**Dr Francy Patricio** of the Medical Women's Association of Brazil, was paid tribute by the Regional Council of Medicine of the State of Sao Paulo.

**Dr.Usha Saraiya**, Vice President for Central Asia, received an award from the Forum for Ethical Review Committee in Asia and the Western Pacific for her work with the Ethics Committee of Clinical Research of the National Institute for Research in Reproduction in Mumbai.

**Dr. Edith Schratzberger** from the Austrian Medical Women has been elected as the Vice President of the European Women's Lobby.

**Dr Yeda Verreschi**, of the Medical Women's Association of Brazil, was awarded the title of Honorary Member of the Brazilian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism during the 31<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Congress of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

**Kevin Vickers**, Sergeant-at-Arms in the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons showed the world true heroism when he risked his own life to protect the members of parliament. He shot and killed the assailant who had killed Nathan Cirillo, who was standing as an honour guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa.

**Dr Nise Yamagushi** of the Medical Women's Association of Brazil was honoured as a Warrior in the Fight Against Cancer at the “First Meeting about Prevention and Fight against Breast, Prostate and Skin Cancer” held at the Municipal Chamber of the City of São Paulo.

## **11. OBITUARIES**

**Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps**, Past President of the American Medical Women’s Association.

## **12. BOOKS AND LINKS**

Direct Link to 378-Page **WHO-World Health Organization Cervical Cancer Second Edition Guide:**

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/144785/1/9789241548953\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/144785/1/9789241548953_eng.pdf?ua=1)

Direct Link to Full 212-Page 2014 Publication: **Promoting Women’s Participation in Political Parties-Handbook-OSCE**

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/120877?download=true>

## **II. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **1. World Health Organization (WHO)**

a. To date, WHO has an active and engaging presence on the following social media:

Twitter @WHO

Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/worldhealthorganization>

Google+ Page <http://gplus.to/WorldHealthOrganization>

YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/who>

Instagr.am @worldhealthorganization

b. WHO is working on a **Safe Childbirth Checklist**. MWIA is making proposals to WHO to include the checklist in our Safe Delivery Project.

c. WHO recently released a statement on “**The prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth** .” See [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal\\_perinatal/state-ment-childbirth/en](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal_perinatal/state-ment-childbirth/en)

d. To ensure coordination with **climate change** negotiation process and to create entry-points for building health resilience at the national level, WHO is supporting countries to develop the health component of their National Adaptation Plans (H-NAPs).

## 2. United Nations

a. This year’s **16 Days of Activism against gender based violence campaign** will have as its theme **From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!**” The priority areas for 2014 are: 1) Violence Perpetrated by State Actors; 2) Proliferation of Small Arms in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence; and 3) Sexual Violence During and After Conflict.

### **Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN states in his message for 2014:**

Women and girls experience violence in all countries and neighbourhoods but these crimes often remain unreported and hidden. We must end the silence. That is why this year’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is centred on a grassroots effort to raise awareness called Orange Your Neighbourhood.

### **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, in her message for the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, said;**

More often than not, violence against women is committed by an intimate partner. Of all women killed in 2012, almost half died at the hands of a partner or family member. It is no exaggeration that the overall greatest threat to women’s lives is men, and often the men they love.

In a commentary to mark the International Day of the Girl, **Dr Flavia Bustreo**, Assistant Director-General at WHO spoke on this year's theme of "Empowering girls: ending the cycle of violence".

b. November 19<sup>th</sup> was **World Toilet Day**, to bring attention to the need for basic sanitation for 2.5 billion people currently without this basic need.

c. The new report on **World Hunger** says that 1/9<sup>th</sup> of the world’s population suffer from hunger but this is lessening. The belief is that we can win the war against hunger.

d. The UN CEDAW Committee and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made recommendations on **harmful traditional practices**. The direct link to their recommends can be found at:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FGC%2F31%2FCRC%2FC%2FGC%2F18&Lang=enhttp://www.un.org/](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FGC%2F31%2FCRC%2FC%2FGC%2F18&Lang=enhttp://www.un.org/)

e. The UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on **child early and forced marriage**:

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/un-general-assembly-adopt-historic-resolution-child-early-forced-marriage/>

3. The **White Ribbon Alliance** has released its 5 Approaches to Respectful Maternity Care.

Visit <http://whiteribbonalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/5-Approaches-to-RMC.pdf>

4. The **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** will hear the case of the forced sterilization of a HIV positive women in Chile.

5. Plan International is running **Because I Am A Girl Campaign** and celebrates Malala as she accepts her Nobel Peace Prize. Visit [plan-international.org](http://www.plan-international.org).

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/11/world/europe/kailash-satyarthi-and-malala-yousafzai-are-awarded-nobel-peace-prize.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/11/world/europe/kailash-satyarthi-and-malala-yousafzai-are-awarded-nobel-peace-prize.html?_r=0)

### **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join MWIA at the regional meetings during this triennium and please mark your calendars now for the 30<sup>th</sup> MWIA International Congress in Vienna, Austria, from July 28-31, 2016. Registration is now open at [www.mwiavienna2016.org](http://www.mwiavienna2016.org). **There will soon be a call for abstracts.**

The next Update will be published in March, 2015.

Please send us your reports, comments or any other interesting information by February 28, 2015, at the latest. We are always interested to put your name and your accomplishments in the Update.