



From the desk of the President

February 20, 2020

Dear Members,

Greetings for a great 2020!

The IAWRT International Board is now into its 3rd year serving the organization. I am happy to update you on some work undertaken since we last wrote.

The major challenge facing us as an organization is replacing funding lost when FOKUS suddenly withdrew. We are actively seeking and applying for new sources, however IAWRT needs your help to raise funds. This is a gigantic task and cannot be done without your support and network. We depend on everybody looking out for funding, and on every member and chapter to pay their fees. Members should pay dues with their chapter, or if you are an individual member - with IAWRT via PayPal on the website. You can also make donations via this link – [[Donate Now](#)], which can help sustain the organisation as we continue with our fundraising drive. Our Communications team is also working on a crowdsourcing strategy, which we will share with you as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we need to promote our chapter activities – both to maintain the organization in this trying period and to show perspective donors the value in what IAWRT brings to the table through its chapters and members, our valuable assets. Thus, I urge chapters to update their members' lists, update their page profiles, and regularly share reports of their IAWRT activities with the Chapters Committee and Secretary Sarah Nakibuuka.

The [Strategic Plan](#) is finalized and various committees are set up. The tasks of these committees are defined and action areas are listed out in accordance with the mandate of the Association. Each committee has prepared a concept note with a vision for the next five years setting out short-term and long-term goals.

In an effort to decentralize and be inclusive, the Board empowered **thematic committees**, comprising of both board members and regular members, to work independently to prioritize tasks, set up processes to achieve their goals and send recommendations for action and documentation to the International Board.

The **Organisational Development Committee** is now looking at the Statutes from the perspective of the Strategic Plan, and is attempting to incorporate the [Draft Code of Ethics](#) in this document to enshrine transparency and accountability. **E-voting mechanisms** are being worked on and will soon be shared with the membership.

We are confident the painstaking effort put in to develop the Strategic Plan will help our 14 national chapters to focus systematically on their purpose and plan, identify possible cross-border thematic collaborations, and reach out to like-minded international organizations sharing the same concerns. It will also help individual members, where we have no chapters, who may wish to propose a project or a theme for the organisation. It is our expectation that the Strategic Plan will help potential funding partners match their priorities with our goals. The plan has facilitated the Fundraising Committee in submitting proposals across continents, some of which was done with support from local chapters.

What's Happening

We now have a functional secretariat in Manila to focus on communication, membership development, fundraising and accounting. Staff members are **Lady Ann Salem (Communications Officer)**, **Janess Ellao (Members Secretary)** and **Sanaf Marcelo (Finance/Admin Officer)**. The secretariat was inaugurated on November 8, 2019 to complement efforts of the international board to shift strategy from a projects-based approach to a long-term issues-based programme.



At the inauguration, the Philippines Chapter organized a **Media Forum** on the theme **'Women Journalists Fight Back,'** where recipient of the 2019 *Reporters Without Borders Prize for Independence*, Inday Espina-Varona, was guest speaker. Over 50 journalists from Philippines alternative media, partners of the launch activities and university students attended the one-day event.



IAWRT/IAWRT USA, Women in Media-Newark, Zonta International and Austin Airwaves, collaborated on a **Side Event at the UN DGC conference in Utah in August 2019**. In October last year, IAWRT members Frieda Werden and Sheila Katzman, represented IAWRT at the annual Grassroots Radio Conference in Rochester, New York with a presentation, including the voices of Abeer Saady and Jola Diones-Mamangun via audio and video.

Great development from **IAWRT-Kenya**. Four universities in Kenya have been enrolled into a mentorship programme for upcoming female journalists that is being coordinated by our chapter headed by Josephine Karani and funded by the United States Embassy in Kenya. **The Female Journalists Mentorship Programme**, now in its third phase, aims to nurture talent among students to increase the presence and quality of women in the industry.



IAWRT Chapters USA, Uganda, Iraq and Cameroon were involved in the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence](#). IAWRT USA joined a November NGO CSW meeting in New York that discussed how to use data and behavioral insights to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls. IAWRT Uganda media engagement was held in Kampala on the 27th of November 2019. IAWRT Iraq-Kurdistan chapter organized different activities aimed at reducing violence against women and raising social awareness. IAWRT Cameroon held a workshop on dealing with sexual harassment in media on December 11 in Yaounde.



In **Afghanistan**, Najiba Ayubi, organised an IAWRT conference “*Women Journalists, Opportunities and Challenges*” on January 15-16, 2020 in Kabul in partnership with the Center for Protection of Women Journalists (CPAWJ) and Afghanistan Women Journalists Union (AWJU), and technical support from INTERNEWS and financial support from USAID. This was the first conference jointly executed by three associated women-led organizations in Kabul.

Two of our films have been selected for inclusion in ["We Do What We Do Because..." Women In Media-Newark's 2020 Women's History Month Film Festival](#). IAWRT films “**Displacement & Resilience**” and “**Velvet Revolution**” will be screened during the festival taking place from March 25 to April 3 at the Newark Museum of Art, Rutgers University - Newark, and at various satellite venues in the northern New Jersey area. IAWRT member, Liz Miller’s moving film, **The Water Front**, is also included in the festival. Come for the CSW and stay for the Film Festival.



6 p.m. - Mon., March 30th

East Orange Public Library



6 p.m. - Thurs., April 16th

Scotch Plains Public Library

The **USA** Chapter, led by Sheila Katzman, is once again preparing for the 64th **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, that will be held on March 9-20, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

IAWRT will be hosting a parallel event in partnership with the Committee to Protect Journalists, Women in Media-Newark, and the Women's Newsgathering Service (WINGS). Twenty self-sponsored IAWRT members have registered to attend as we mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (1995) at [CSW 64](#). This is a great opportunity to influence the international agenda. We do have a cadre of new USA members who are on hand to help. The slate of panelists is quite impressive as we will be joined by the President of the Board of Society for Professional Journalists, which is a plus for us.

IAWRT CSW64 PARALLEL EVENT

WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

Addressing progress in media coverage of women and media's role 25 Years After the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

📅 **March 11th, 2020. 4:30 PM**

📍 **United Nations Church Center, 10th Floor**

MODERATOR: PATRICIA GALLAGHER NEWBERRY, AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS AND DIRECTOR OF JOURNALISM AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY | @PATINNEWBERRY

PRESENTERS:

DR. COURTNEY RADSCH, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS | @COURTNEYR

DR. PURNA SEN, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR AND SPOKESPERSON ON ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT UN WOMEN | @PURNA_SEN

DR. DIANA NASTASIA, FACULTY FELLOW, PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, EDWARDSVILLE US/ROMANIA | LINKEDIN/DIANANASTASIA

DR. MICHELLE FERRIER, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION AT FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL | @MEDIAGHOSTS

MARRY FERREIRA, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE FOR FORDHAM UNIVERSITY AND IAWRT AT UN | @MARRY_FERREIRA

RACHEAL NAKITARE, ASSISTANT TELEVISION PROGRAMMES MANAGER - KENYA BROADCASTING CORPORATION @NAKITARE

IAWRT India, led by Nupur Basu, is set to launch the **16th Asian Women's Film Festival (AWFF)** from **March 4-7** at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The festival this year seeks to reflect on the theme Claiming Democracy. More information about the 16th AWFF can be found [here](#). We are proud to announce that Nupur has been recruited to serve on the board of Center for Women Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University, New Jersey. She has also been invited to attend two of their events in March - One on VAW and the other one will take place at the UN Expert Group meeting on Violence Against Journalists.



The CWGL has also invited IAWRT's partnership in supporting the upcoming report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women Journalists. IAWRT will field members covering violence in this sphere. We will be discussing this with the board and in New York.

The **Safety Training Handbook for Female Journalists** is being translated into Arabic with support from the Journalism & Media International Center (JMIC) at Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway.

IAWRT in collaboration with the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) will participate in a research project entitled: "Engendering National Mechanisms for the Safety of Journalists". The project will be conducted in three countries - Mexico and our two chapters in Afghanistan and Iraq.

IAWRT members Fiona Martin of Australia and our Board Member Greta Gober of Poland, have been chosen to be part of an international consortium conducting a study on effective measures to tackle **online harassment of women journalists**. The study is funded by UNESCO. At the announcement, Guy Berger, Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, flagged the IAWRT Safety Training Handbook as an important tool for building solutions.

As always, we continue to be elated with IAWRT members' achievements as they continue to make meaningful impact on communities around the globe.

Biennial

The time has come for us to begin planning for the 2020 Biennial Conference, which should be held by 31st October and we are looking for a country to host the conference. We wish to invite individual members and Chapters to submit a letter of interest to host the Conference, including proposed theme(s), estimated budget and objectives. The deadline for submitting your proposals is **25 April 2020**. *Please note, IAWRT International has no funding for this activity for this year, so priority will be given to applicants who can help fundraise for this activity locally. Although we don't have the usual funding, we remain committed and will be available to work with the awarded organisers to continue this biennial tradition.*

We are grateful for the contribution of two IAWRT members who have completed important and generous work for the International Board.

Board Member **Birgitte Jallo** was co-opted to the Board to help with the restructuring phase and formulating the 5-year Strategic Plan. We appreciate Birgitte's great work as co-chair of the Organisational Development Committee. We are grateful to her for her time and copious efforts. With the completion of her mandate and the task, she has stepped down from the Board and will continue as a valued individual IAWRT member.

Web Journalist **Nonee Walsh** is familiar to all the IAWRT members. Nonee, developed the IAWRT website, introducing the PayPal feature to facilitate online payment of membership dues. She has for years managed our social media platforms. We are thankful to her for giving IAWRT visibility. She has selflessly published news and features about chapters and their projects, members and their achievements. Nonee will continue supporting the secretariat and the organization as she takes on new roles in her country, Australia.

The journey ahead is tough and not without hurdles. But I am confident that with your active engagement and participation IAWRT will only get bigger and stronger in the years to come.

If you have questions about anything in this report or need to find out how you can pay your subscriptions, please do not hesitate to contact secretariat@iawrt.org. Our new Members secretary, Janess, will also be following up on membership related issues with you.

Regards,



Violet Gonda
President, IAWRT

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