

IAWRT

The International Association of Women in Radio & Television

Newsletter April 2018

IAWRT MAKING WAVES IN THE UNCSW62



Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-second session was held from 12 – 23 March 2018, New York, USA.

This year our organization – IAWRT participated in a number of Parallel and Side Events. Mentioned below are a few of the events. To read more about UNCSW62 visit www.iawrt.org

PARALLEL EVENT:

#MetooOnline

Protecting women working in the media against sexualized violence



Sheila Katzman the IAWRT main representative for the UN Chair, NYC4CEDAW

The International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) and Gender Links held a Parallel Event on the **#MetooOnline - Workshopping Solutions to Counter Cyber Violence Against Women.**

The objective of this event was to initiate the development of robust industry-wide guidelines on protecting women working in the media against sexualized and/or gendered cyber violence. This event was moderated by Ms. Sheila Katzman the IAWRT main representative for the UN Chair, NYC4CEDAW.

The discussion focused on key issues affecting women using online media and the solutions to such issues.

[Read more](#)

Side Events:

Making Information Technology Work For Gender Justice



President IAWRT Violet Gonda (left) during the session on Making Information Technology Work for Gender Justice

Extracts from IAWRT President Violet Gonda's message delivered during the session:

1. I am delighted to participate on behalf of IAWRT in this event, alongside reputable champions of gender equality and social justice including representatives of the Government of Malawi, Gender Links, the Gender Protocol Alliance, and UN Women.
2. 23 years after the Beijing Platform for Action, progress has been made in regards to reducing gender inequality and social injustice across regions of the world and in various economic and political aspects, however much still remains to be done

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**Making IT work for Gender Justice:
Women's space is never given, it has to be claimed!**



Participants at the Event

The **Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare of Malawi, Dr. Jean A.N.Kalilani** set the stage and spirit of this important session during the last week of the 2018 CSW62.

The session took place in a full room, with many participants standing. It was co-sponsored by the Government of Malawi, Genderlinks, and the International Association of Women in Radio and TV (IAWRT), also with the participation by UN Women.

Highlights: Gender mainstreaming should be institutionalised, women's representation at all levels of decision making, gender policies even in training institutions.

[\(For full report by IAWRT member Birgitte Jallo, EMPOWERHOUSE click on the link- www.iawrt.org\)](#)

**Beyond the Pretty Face:
Tackling Gender Bias in the Media**

From Left: Sonja Honig Zonta International, Dr. Michelle Ferrier, Patricia Siera Sampson, Dr. Diana Nastasia, Vanessa Tyler and Kerry Lindeque

Beyond the Pretty Face: Tackling Gender Bias in the Media discussed a number of issues ranging from the negative portrayal of women in the media, to the MeToo Campaign and the online media. This event was organized by the IAWRT International, IAWRT USA Chapter and Zonta International and it took place at the UN Church Center.

[Read more](#)

Safety of Journalists is our Priority

By- Sarah Nakibuuka



Gunilla Ivarsson (right) at the Event

IAWRT participated in another side event - **Challenging impunity and Gender Based Violence (GBV) against Women Journalists and Media Workers**. Gunilla Ivarsson former IAWRT President was one of the panelists. She made a presentation about the IAWRT Safety Handbook whose objective is to equip Journalists with safety measures and protection for female Journalists who report in conflict zones. "Safety of Journalists is one of the key priorities for the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT). A number of Journalists around the World are under attack and the handbook is a tool for them."

[Read more](#)

Impressions



Nancy Cohen-Kaon

This CSW 62 felt more powerful than the past several years. Perhaps it's the MeToo splash which gave it an extra sense agency, but the town seemed filled with strong women insisting on being heard.

The trafficking issue seems to finally be coming out of the closet as well as FGM. And for we in media, attendees were sharing the bad behavior experienced in the field and offering ideas for protection enabling all of us to go forward bringing truth to power." (Nancy Cohen-Kaon, IAWRT USA)



Diana Lulia Nastasia, speaking during the session

I was delighted to be a presenter at UN CSW 62 on behalf of IAWRT, and also to see how many exciting CSW 62 events IAWRT sponsored or co-sponsored, especially this year when key themes were the participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women. (Diana Lulia Nastasia, USA IAWRT)



Grace S. Uddin

The whole experience was overwhelming especially during the networking session where we interacted with different nationalities on giving them the 'radio feel'. Consequently, almost everybody got interested to start their own community radio. Glad that IAWRT led that creative and innovative workshop. *(Grace S. Uddin, IAWRT Philippines)*



Sarah Nakibuuka (Left), Uganda with Dr. Michelle Ferrier and Diana Lulia Nastasia

I really would like to thank IAWRT and FOKUS for enabling me attend the United Nations 62nd Commission on the Status of Women held between 12th to 23rd March in New York. I was able to meet various stakeholders in the media fraternity. But most importantly, I was able to understand the challenges faced by women journalists especially those that use the online platform as well what we can do to protect such women. I learnt that 'we' - you and I can create the change, we need, if we are committed. Of course, government and media houses have a big role to play. *(Sarah Nakibuuka, Uganda, Secretary, International Board, IAWRT)*



Kristine Ramm (right) with journalist Akisa Sopova

This year CSW was a remarkable experience. I was proud to participate as an IAWRT member. I think my favourites this year were Media and Information Technologies: A Double Edged Sword for Women's Advancement, moderated by Sheila Katzman, Chapter Head USA Norway and our main representative for the UN Chair, NYC4CEDAW. The other very interesting session was the Media Space and Women Journalists as Human Rights Defenders. Matha Kebalo, Main Representative from the United Nations Economic and Social Council presented the session, sponsored by World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisation and ICW. Journalist Akisa Sopova who has covered the conflict in east Ukraine since 2014 made a very interesting statement that how gender stereotype helped her not to be considered a threat as the men in balaclava. *(Kristine Ramm, Chapter Head, Norway IAWRT)*

Agreed Conclusions



1. Take action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, so as to improve their lives, livelihoods and wellbeing

2. Design and implement national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and create an environment that does not tolerate violations

or abuses of their rights, including those involving domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination... [\(For full report click on the link- http://www.unwomen.org\)](http://www.unwomen.org)

In Brief:

1. IAWRT made its presence felt at the **GAMAG Side Event** - Safe Journalists Strong Democracies: How Online and Offline attacks on women journalists are Hurting us All. IAWRT former President Gunilla Ivarsson was in the panel.

2. IAWRT hosted **Community Media Broadcasters: Building Capacities for amplifying voices of Rural Women**. This Side Event discussed the role of community media in amplifying women's voices in rural and marginalized regions by increasing the capacity and capability of women in rural media (community radio/community newspapers).

3. **Parallel Event- Dangerous Assignments: Safety of Women Journalists**: A panel co-sponsored by CPJ and the permanent mission of Greece to the UN. The panel included IAWRT President Violet Gonda, representatives of Member States, UN entities, non-governmental organizations and civil society. The panel explored the main achievements made concerning women's participation and the way landscape of women's empowerment has changed over the years.

Photo Essay





Our Upcoming Events:

- **Call for applications – IAWRT / FOKUS Scholarships for Studies / Training, 2018. Deadline 13 May 2018**
- **Chapter Activity Committee**, chaired by Sarah Nakibuuka has been set-up. It will monitor the Chapter activities and along with Chapter Heads implement the activities, pertaining to empowerment of women, media research and violence against women. This year, the Chapter Activity fund is divided in two phases. The second phase will concentrate on Gender Mainstreaming Projects. The Call for Chapter Activity will shortly be sent out.
- **The Call for Hosting Regional Conference** will be sent out soon. The Conference is to be held in August-September, 2018.

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