



Indian Federation of University Women's Associations

AFFILIATED TO GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL



President's address

Dear Sisters of the Indian Federation,
As I write I take it as my proud privilege to be an integral part of this 100 year old association popularly called IFUWA.

I take this opportunity to bring before you my visions for IFUWA for this Triennium -

- IFUWA will encourage educated women to use their expertise and bring about effective changes with particular reference to the education of girls, adult literacy and numeracy, access and advancement of women in public and professional endeavours.
- IFUWA will look into every possibility to provide financial support to the deserving candidates through scholarships and encourage research in all academic and professional fields. IFUWA also plans to acknowledge the different women achievers for their commendable contributions to our society towards the empowerment of women.
- This IFUWA will design goal-oriented do-able National Projects on education and empowerment of women, skill development for women's economic sustenance, promoting vocational efficiency comprising of hands-on training. IFUWA will also consider worthy projects coming from individual members who might seek to complete the same with government / international collaboration, the product of which will benefit members of our society.
- IFUWA will revamp the Website to make it the face of the Indian Federation. It will reflect our glorious past, our visions of the future, the mission towards which we will work and represent activities coming from UWAs / IFUWA / GWI and other UN activities as well. Our FB will serve as an effective platform for display, interactions and fraternity building.

I am happy to have a IFUWA team of potential members who have had previous years of IFUWA experiences and are currently part of GWI too. The present IFUWA team endeavors to combine the experienced stalwarts of the yester years with the dynamic and bountiful new brigade to lend me support and confidence.

Stay safe!

Ranjana Banerjee

IFUWA Central Committee 2020-2023

President	: Ranjana Banerjee
Vice President	: Gomathy Venkateswar
Coordinator International	
Relations	: Shyamasree Sen
Secretary	: Sakuntala Ghosh Hazra
Treasurer	: Sreemoyee Ganguli
Joint Treasurer	: Sanghamitra Dutta Gupta
Joint Secretary	: Mita Mukharji
Convener Education	: Nandini Sonthalia
Convener Membership	: Dechamma Banerjee
Convener Projects	: Malati Kalmadi
Convener Scholarship	: Sheela Kulkarni
Convener Resolutions	: Mythili Sundar
Convener Newsletters and Website	: Purobi Ghosh Mohan
Officiating Convener for UWAsia	: Meera Bondre

Editor's Note

Dear friends,

This is our first e-newsletter for the Triennial of 2020-2023. We will endeavour to take out one e-newsletter quarterly to give you enough information regarding the activities that are being undertaken by IFUWA within these few months.

We are also re-doing the IFUWA Website and would shortly have it uploaded for you to have a look and see your activities on the Website, as envisaged by you.

Please feel free to send in some interesting news of your activity or of your UWA, with good quality images, for incorporation in the next e-newsletter. It will be easier for me to put the pages together when we plan the next e-newsletter.

Please use the email id ifuwa.hjournal@gmail.com for all IFUWA correspondence, addressed to me.

I hope you enjoy reading the four pages as much as I enjoyed putting them together.

We have also initiated the IFUWA Facebook page called 'ifuwa India' which covers the real-time events. Our You Tube channel is 'IFUWA Events'. Please visit these social media platforms as and when you can.

Happy reading!

Purobi Ghosh Mohan

Convener - Newsletters and Website



Obituaries

RIP. Chitra Ghosh.

IFUWA lost a stalwart this morning in Professor Chitra Ghosh, who was one of pillars of IFUWA and University Women's Association Calcutta.

Daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Subhas Chandra Bose, she brought to IFUWA her tremendous energy to work for the benefit of those underprivileged women who were in need of education and empowerment which would facilitate their dignified survival. Her strong educational background helped her to innovate policies and strategies for the best to happen to women's upliftment.

Past president of UWAC / IFUWA and the then IFUW, she has left her footprints on the sands of time. She was a competent organiser who was an asset to every committee in which she served.

Chitra Ghosh was an international figure who had attended multiple conferences all over the world. In 2013 at the Istanbul Conference, she instituted an award 'The Best Project Award for Empowering Women' which has a citation and a cash award of USD 1000.

Elegant and gracious, a much-loved kind and multifaceted lady, her contributions to all the associations will always be remembered.

Chitradi, as she was fondly called, will be dearly missed by all who knew her well.

A legend has passed away.



RIP. Tannaz Tarapore

IFUWA lost one of its senior members, Mrs Tannaz Tarapore on November 15, 2020.

Mrs Tarapore was associated with IFUWA for many years. She had been the Past Hon. Secretary, Past Convener – Constitution Advisory Committee for IFUWA.

Tannaz had been a member of Women Graduates Union (WGU), Mumbai, India for more than 40 years. She served on WGU's Managing Committee and several other Committees for many years. She had been the President, Vice President and Association Representative for WGU.

Tannaz was a qualified Chartered Accountant and had worked in the Corporate sector in senior positions for many years.

Mrs Tarapore had also been associated with Maharashtra State Women's Council (MSWC) and Zonta International Club and had worked in senior capacities in these NGOs as well.

Tannaz Tarapore was source of inspiration and a valuable mentor for many younger members of IFUWA and WGU.



GWI News

GWI participates in the 59th session of the Commission on Social Development

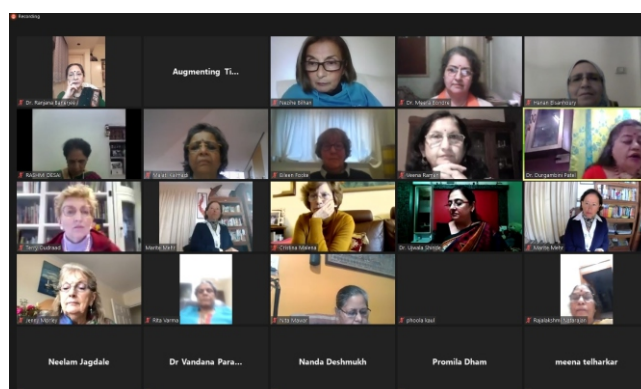
The 59th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD59) takes place from 8 to 17 February 2021 at the UN headquarters in New York. The CSocD is the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development. This year's priority theme is *“socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”*. Given the critical nature of the theme, GWI submitted a written statement entitled, “Digital technologies as a strategical and challenging turn towards the social development, well being and inclusive access to education for women and girls”. NGO participation in the session will be strictly virtual. GWI UN representative, Maryella Hannum will virtually attend the session. Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the CSocD has been the key UN body in charge of the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)

CSW65 organised by UN Women will take place from March 15 to 26, 2021 under the priority theme “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. Typically, CSW sessions and side events are held inside the UN headquarters in New York. However, due to Covid-19, there will be no opportunities for in-person attendance in NYC and no grounds passes will be issued. CSW65 is scheduled to take place virtually/online. Given the virtual nature of the CSW65, the typical maximum number of 20 participants from an ECOSOC NGO (GWI) has been waived by UN Women this year. GWI members who are in good standing within their respective National Federation and Associations (NFAs) and Independent Members who are interested in participating can register through the Indico platform. Registration is strictly limited to GWI NFA and Independent members only.

IFUWA and EAGW hold successful NFA-to-NFA project Webinar on Sexual Harassment

As part of the Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA programme, IFUWA along with EAGW successfully conducted an exclusive Webinar on 'Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace ... Prohibition, Prevention, and Redressal'. The Webinar, announced in the 11 November GWI Update, was held on 21 November 2020, thus aligning with the GWI 2020 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (16 Days of Activism), held annually from 25 November to 10 December. This online event opened a unique and international safe working place that will build on the knowledge, expertise and experience of both EAGW and IFUWA members and help to promote innovative methods and best practices to prevent sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Many GWI members from all around the world join the event and concluding remarks were by GWI President, Terry Oudraad and GWI Vice President Membership, Eileen Focke-Bakker. GWI commends IFUWA and EAGW on the success of this inspiring event that kicks off a promising and impactful NFA to NFA programme.



Protection of Human Rights

IFUWA and IQAC of Annamalai University presented an online talk on 'Protection of Human Rights of Women' on December 21, 2021. The President of IFUWA, Dr. Ranjana Banerjee highlighted that women's rights are also human rights and it is imperative for them to be achieved through education and awareness activities. She mentioned that the programme is specifically designed to celebrate United Nation's Human Rights Day as well as to respect the GWI Advocacy mission of 16 Days of Activism for Violence against Women. President opined that to reach the common goals there is need to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures of the system that is violating women's rights and apply human rights standards to tackle inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.

Dr. S. Arivudainambi, Director – IQAC Annamalai University, Dr. S. Poongothai, President of UWA Chidambaram offered felicitations and addressed the participants.

Ms. Jyotika Kalra, Member of National Human Rights commission(NHRC) New Delhi and Advocate – Supreme Court New Delhi was the speaker of the Session. She discussed women's issues like marriage, employment disparity, maternity benefits, disabled women rights, child care and also the following matters were touched upon

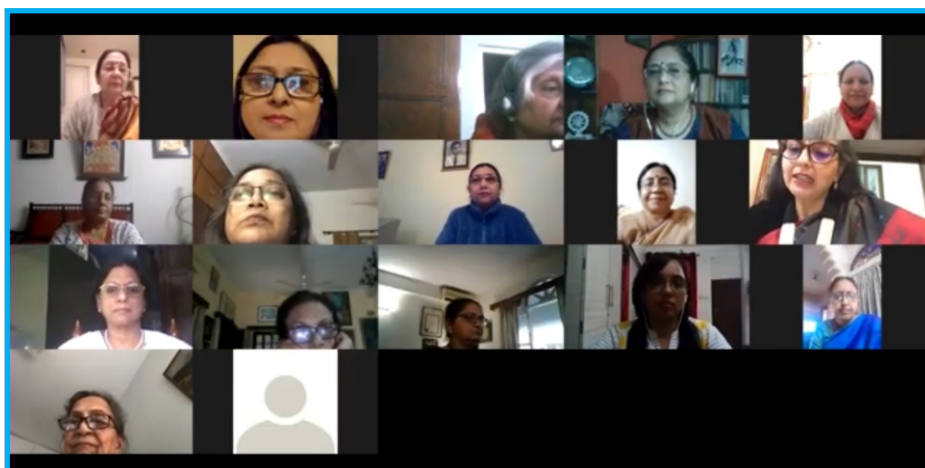
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Urban employment scheme MGNREGA
- Child care leave for men as well as women
- Safety and security for working women
- Sexual harassment in workplace
- Benefit schemes for women
- Rights for compulsory education for girl child till the age of 14

She discussed several court cases and their judgments on the above issues.

This was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Dr. K. Saileela, Web Manager – UWA Chidambaram. Ms Shyamasree Sen, CIR of IFUWA, proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to Ms. Jyotika Kalra and all others who made this event possible.

Dr. K. Praveena

Member – Education Committee
IFUWA

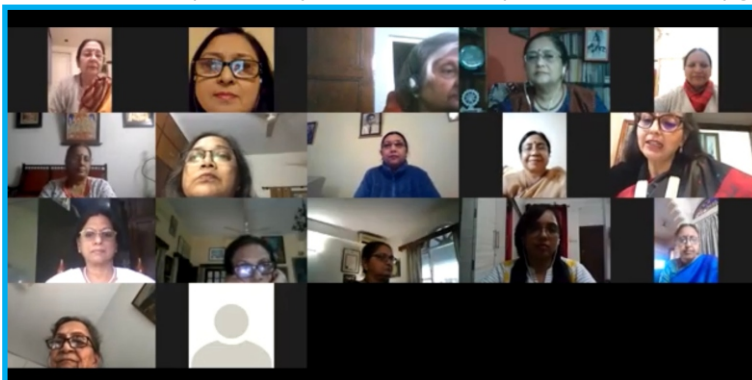


Gender Implications of National Education Policy, 2020

The objective of the Session was to bring to light the different aspects of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 framed by the Government of India with a focus on the status of women and girls education in every stratum of society. Dr Ranjana Banerjee President IFUWA in her address reiterated the fact that education of girls is of prime necessity and must be made accessible to all women to build up an empowered society.

Dr Vibhuti Patel an authority on Gender Studies in conversation with Dr Muckta Karmarkar, an educationist, deliberated on the different aspects of NEP and explained, with statistical data, the disparity between the education of girls and boys and deprivation from higher education of girls owing to patriarchal impositions. She stressed that NEP give importance to women and their enrolment in the STEM courses especially for the meritorious but marginalized girls. NEP is facilitating the process of Indian educational institutions to be effective in the knowledge economy. It is concerned with social inclusion and promotion of diversity along with equity and gender sensitization. Gender responsive budgeting in the education sector that ensures funds, functions and functionaries is the demand of the day. She

confirmed that universalisation of education is the way to address multiple marginalities of caste, class, ethnicity, location and gender. Education is a fundamental necessity to generate a responsible citizenry in the 21st century globalised world.



Ms Shevata Talwar, MC of the Session, expounded that the G W I advocates “Recover, Revitalise” education for the C O V I D 1 9 generation as the digital divide increased during this

period. Distance-learning was a major solution towards equal and inclusive access to education. The National Education Policy 2020 believes in the realization of the self, development of values and creative potential of each individual, emphasising on traditional practices but with the scientific temper.

The formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by Vice President IFUWA, Mrs Gomathy Venkateswar. Ms Purobi Ghosh Mohan, Convener Newsletters and Website arranged the technical support for the Session.

Shevata Rai Talwar
AR
UWA Dehradun