

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

Welcome to ICJW's 2018 newsletter. This is the first edition to be distributed online only, in an effort to reduce costs. Unfortunately printing and postage costs are so expensive these days that a decision was taken to publish and distribute the newsletter online only. We hope that you will still be able to share it via email with friends and members of your affiliate, and you are free to print copies to distribute if you wish. We will continue to produce this annual newsletter in English, Spanish and Russian and I am very grateful for the input of our translators.

These have been a difficult few months for ICJW, as we have lost three long-standing and noteworthy Life Members: June Jacobs CBE, a Past President of ICJW; Sylvia Gelman AM MBE, a Past President of NCJW Australia; and Addrienne Sherman. All three women had ICJW embedded in their DNA and campaigned tirelessly to further our aims and ideals

I am delighted to introduce you to four new Life Members in this Newsletter. They have all served ICJW for many years in various capacities and we hope that they will continue to do so for many more.

I am also pleased to present our two new Affiliates in Greece and Uganda. We hope that they will be joined by other organisations in the near future, since our new website has generated requests from several possible future members of ICJW.

Reading newspapers or watching the news at the moment can seem scary. Everything seems to focus on extremism, natural disasters, war and inequality. However, these are all areas where ICJW and its affiliates are actively involved at either the local or the international level, and through our connections with other United Nations NGOs. So, unlike the news, this newsletter focuses on how we at ICJW are playing our part in helping to make this a better world.

With all good wishes,

Penelope Conway

President, ICJW

CONTENTS

ICJW on the World Stage	2-3
Domestic Violence & Spousal Abuse	4-5
Scrutinizing UNRWA's Schools	6-7
Meet Our 2 New Affiliates	8-9
New ICJW Life Members	10-11
The Sydney Convention & Calendar	12

Representing Jewish Women on the World Stage

Since 1969, ICJW has had Special Consultative Status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We maintain permanent delegations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris who are actively involved in the activities of the UN, ECOSOC, UNICEF and UNESCO, and who participate in consultations with other NGOs on topics of mutual concern.



ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for coordinating the economic, social, and related work of the UN's agencies and commissions. It serves as the central forum for discussing

international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations that are addressed to member states and to the United Nations system. ICJW is one of 4,000 accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, which allows them to participate in the discussions of the United Nations.

ICJW in New York

The ICJW team in New York comprises Madeleine Brecher, Fran Butensky, Sara Winkowski, Joan Lurie Goldberg and Judy Mintz. They attend UN events relating to women's issues, Israel and Holocaust Remembrance, and NGO briefings organized by the UN Department of Public Information on other issues of concern. For example, in one week they attended discussions on the role of faith-based organizations in helping refugees and a conference organized by the Israeli delegation to discuss BDS. They attend monthly meetings of the NGO Committees on Status of Women, Working Group on Girls, Human Rights, Sustainable Development, Freedom of Religion or Belief, and Stop Trafficking in Persons (STOP). They are also active in the NGO Jewish Caucus, where Joan is leading a campaign to defund UNRWA textbooks (as reported elsewhere in this newsletter).

Members of the ICJW team in New York are actively involved

in planning NGO events for the Commission on the Status of Women every March. Madeleine Brecher sat on the steering committee of the NGO CSW/NY, which advocates for gender architecture reform at the UN, women's rights, and the advancement of women and girls worldwide. For many years, she has been co-chair of the annual NGO CSW Forum Networking Reception for global NGO delegates. By networking with over 80 NGOs that are active on these issues, ICJW creates partnerships and builds consensus between women of different ethnicities, including religious and social welfare organizations with similar interests to ICJW.



ICJW delegates at a UN Watch event during the Commission on the Status of Women, March 2018. (l to r) back row: Madeleine Brecher, Vivien Brass, Judy Mintz; front row: Susie Ivany, Sara Winkowski and Joan Lurie Goldberg.

UN Bodies in Europe

ICJW has active delegations in Geneva, Paris and Vienna. The UN Geneva team comprising Léonie de Picciotto, Mary Liling and Eftychia Simcha attend the three yearly sessions of the Human Rights Council, where the same 10 agenda items are reviewed at each session. The infamous Item 7 singles out human rights violations in Israel, while human rights violations in every other country in the world are examined under Item 4. Léonie is vice president of the NGO Committee on Human Rights and participates actively with Eftichia in the Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women. ICJW's representatives also participate in the

Representing Jewish Women on the World Stage

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activities of the NGO Committees on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Committee on Ageing, and on the one Human Rights Education. Whenever CEDAW – the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women – is in session, ICJW representatives attend those sessions that are relevant to Israel and other countries where there are concerns about the situation of women.

ICJW's permanent representatives to UNESCO in Paris - Lilianne Picard, Elisabeth Birene and Estelle Tzinnman - participate in events organized by the UNESCO NGOs, such as the Forum on Human Rights and the International Day of the Girl. Their participation, together with other Jewish NGOs including Bnei Brith International and ORT International, has become more important following Israel's departure from UNESCO.

In Vienna there are parallel NGO committees to the ones in New York, and they make special efforts to include women from Central and Eastern Europe. Deborah Kamil represents ICJW among 40 NGOs with issues concerning women and families. Our representative at UNICEF in New York - Judy Mintz - monitors the organisation's performance on gender equality, education, eradicating child poverty, creating clean

environments, protecting children and adolescents with disabilities, and eliminating violence and exploitation.

Why Participate?

The United Nations is a global organization that encourages dialogue and cooperation, and ICJW is well-placed to voice the concerns of its membership on a wide range of issues, and to contribute to events, campaigns and resolutions that can make incremental but important differences to the lives of millions of people.

As our mentor Leila Seigel used to explain, it is important for ICJW representatives to attend UN meetings, not only to show our interest in issues that are not necessarily specifically Jewish or pertinent to Israel, but also because sharing our concerns and advocacy with other NGOs creates the best basis for networking and building personal relationships.

Our representatives' insightful reports on the events that take place at the UN are regularly uploaded to the ICJW website, so that members around the world can learn more about the issues being discussed, and take action locally to reinforce the same ideas.



*The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room at the
Palace of Nations, Geneva, where the Human Rights Council meets.*

Tackling Domestic Violence and Spousal Abuse

By Bev Goldman, National Vice-President, Union of Jewish Women of South Africa

Violence against women is endemic worldwide. Data from 80 different countries show that 35% of all women have been physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner or have experienced non-partner sexual violence. But these statistics certainly don't tell the whole story. For example, in South Africa there is gross under-reporting: while a quarter of the country's women has been raped, just 2% of those raped by a partner have reported the incident to police.

South Africa

Domestic violence in South Africa is not limited to only one segment of society: it does not discriminate by colour, creed, social status or economic wellbeing. And while the figures within the Jewish community are far lower, Jewish women (and some men) are also victims of such attacks.



Following a shocking presentation at the ICJW Convention in 1993 in Johannesburg about the abuse of Israeli women, the South African community realized that abuse was also happening at home and that, although the methods of abuse may differ, the results are the same, and the actions are deplorable, despicable, and heinous. The Union of Jewish Women joined forces with WIZO and the Progressive Movement to launch an organisation called Shalom Bayit. Its primary aim is to educate the community, and others, about the dangers and impact of domestic abuse. They hold annual seminars, the most recent of which, in August 2018, featured three speakers: a victim of abuse, a lawyer whose focus is domestic abuse, and a social worker from the Chevra Kadisha (the Jewish Helping Hand Society).

KOLEINU South Africa was established in 2012 to provide an address to which Jewish victims could turn. A Koleinu



helpline was set up with the help of Debbie Gross, founder of Israel's Crisis Centre for Religious Women and Chairman of the Board for the Israeli Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. In October 2018 a full-day seminar was held on domestic violence and child abuse, under the auspices of Shalom Bayit and Koleinu, for teachers, religious leaders and parents.

Israel

Many women's organizations in Israel support and run shelters for abused women and their children, as well as programs for the prevention of violence in the family. Na'amat, one of our Israeli affiliates, runs a shelter that is used by 500 women and their children each year.

WIZO, another of our Israel affiliates, has been campaigning to prevent violence against women by lobbying for appropriate legislation, education, information and resource



Tackling Domestic Violence and Spousal Abuse

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development, women's professional training and job opportunities, and enforcement. They provide information for victims, and they run advertising campaigns to encourage men to receive professional help to alter their behaviour patterns. They also have a special program for women who are in the process of separating from their spouses.

Pioneers in education, WIZO holds lectures and workshops to increase awareness of domestic violence and about the prevention of sexual harassment in hospitals, child clinics, and schools, and in homes for children who have been exposed to violence. They have designed specific preventative programs for children, teenagers, and men, including a film for teenagers to help them to identify early signs of possible violence in their relationships and learn how to build healthy interactions with their peers. Workshops around this film are held in high schools, in the army, and in academic institutions.

The Israel Family Counselling Association (ALUMA) is supported by NCJW Canada and provides therapeutic counselling for couples, families and individuals. NCJW Australia supports the work of the Haifa Rape Crisis Centre.

France

In 2007, the Coopération Féminine – our French affiliate - in cooperation with the Chief Rabbi of France, WIZO and

other important Jewish organisations, created a helpline for Jewish women who are victims of domestic violence, known as "NOA: Oser le Dire" meaning "Dare to Speak".

NOA's team of women volunteers listen to the phone callers, who are mostly women of all ages and social conditions, from Monday to Thursday. These volunteers have

been trained by a psychologist and they meet regularly to talk about the calls they have received. Most of the women who call are ashamed and they dare not speak to their families or rabbis. They need to speak to another woman who will listen, who is friendly, and who does not judge them and try to help. If requested, the volunteers will direct the callers to a team of doctors, lawyers, psychologists and social workers who are sensitive to the issue.



The NOA volunteers are also concerned about any children who may have witnessed violence, and they work in cooperation with social workers to help them. They are in contact with social workers, different rabbis, president of communities and schools. They are often asked to participate in meetings on the issue, and they also help to educate student rabbis in order to make them aware of the difficult problems linked to the victimisation of women.

At its start, NOA encountered an attitude of denial of the problem from France's Jewish community. But today attitudes have changed and NOA is now well-known and respected. Calls to the hotline include women asking how to leave a violent husband but not daring to do so, "because of the children", or "because he doesn't slap me every day, only when he is angry."

We all hope and pray that one day there will be no need for all these organizations, and that women all over the world will be freed from this kind of horrific and devastating violence.

Une initiative de la Coopération Féminine, la Wizo, le FSJU, le CASIP-COJASOR et l'OSE

Vous êtes victime de violences conjugales

Parlons-en en toute confidentialité

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01 47 07 39 55
du lundi au jeudi de 10H à 15H

Scrutinizing UNRWA's Schools

By Joan Lurie Goldberg, PhD, ICJW Representative at the United Nations in New York,
and Deborah Singer Soffen, MD.

At the Jewish NGO Caucus at the UN, we have been working with Dr. Deborah Singer Soffen and others to promote a social action campaign entitled “UNRWA: Stop Teaching Hate”. We believe that, in order to bring about peace in the Middle East, the education of Palestinian children must be reformed.



Whether or not UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency) is reformed or replaced, there are around 500,000 students and 30,000 teachers currently using their educational materials which incite them to violence, promote the destruction of Israel, and train Palestinian children to kill Jews.

All Palestinian schools run by UNRWA currently receive their books from the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education's Curricula Center in Ramallah. A study by Dr. Arnon Groiss, whose research on this important subject spans 18 years, shows that the textbooks published between 2016-2018 are even more radical than their predecessors.

Here are some examples from these current school textbooks:

1) This poem taught to third graders talks about the fate of the Jews now living in Israel following its supposed liberation: “And I shall remove the usurper (code name for Israel) from my country and shall exterminate the foreigners' scattered remnants”. This is a clear incitement to perpetrate war crimes!



2) This image is used in a first-grade textbook to help students to visualize the capture of an Israeli city. The text asks the children: “How can we work together to liberate our homeland?”



3) This cartoon illustrates the false claim that the Jews are destroying Moslem shrines in Jerusalem.

It is clear that a curriculum of hatred permeates all subject matter, from elementary arithmetic to high school social studies and science. Martyrdom is glorified and any historical connection between the Jews and their biblical homeland is denied. Maps of the region omit the State of Israel. The “Right of Return” for over 5 million Palestinians is taught as their birthright. It comes as no surprise that so many Palestinian teenagers have been willing to sacrifice

Scrutinizing UNRWA's Schools

continued

their lives in order to murder Jews. The materials used in their schools exploit the children and indoctrinate them into a culture of hate. Until their education changes, the region is at least a generation away from a true, sustainable peace.

No matter what entity replaces UNRWA, there will still be half a million Palestinian children who need to be educated, and the same teachers will probably reenter their classrooms and use the same textbooks that have corrupted the minds of Palestinian children for decades. How can we make sure that any new organization that replaces UNRWA does not continue to teach hate? Whatever entity takes over from

UNRWA must undertake to reform the textbooks and to vet every teacher, to ensure that supporters of hate, jihad and murder are replaced.

The United Nations has a terrible record in situations like this. When the Human Rights Commission was disbanded because of its bias and inaction against human rights violations, it was replaced by the Human Rights Council, which has adopted virtually all the abysmal policies and personnel of its predecessor. Changing the name of an organization does not change its agenda. We will continue to campaign for a replacement for UNRWA that will promote peace.



Members of the Jewish NGO Caucus at the UN with guest speaker Brooke Goldstein from the Lawfare Project

NEW AFFILIATES

Introducing our new Greece Affiliate

ICJW is proud to have a new affiliate – ICJW Greece – based in Athens. Its chair is Efti Simha, who represents ICJW at the United Nations in Geneva, and its president is Augustine Almyroudi. Established a few months ago, the group is hoping to establish a Jewish community centre known as “Mind Space” in Athens, where people of all ages can meet, work and study. They also plan to run a book club to study books in English or Greek related to Jewish subjects, including translations of Israeli books. Another plan is to establish internships for young people in the different professions, to help them discover for which careers they are best suited.



Beth Shalom Synagogue & Community Center in Athens (photo: Arie Darzi)

Our friends in Athens are keen to welcome ICJW members to visit their city, where they hope to offer historic city tours with a Jewish flavour, covering the history of the Sephardic Greek Jewish community as well as the unique heritage of the Romanioti Jews. Feel free to contact the affiliate via the ICJW office if you are planning a visit to Greece.

UGANDA

Into Africa

The Union of Jewish Women of Uganda represents the women of the Abayudaya tribe in the village of Putti in Eastern Uganda in East Africa. Their community, the Kahal Kadosh Shearit Yisrael, has for many years been practising Judaism with assistance from the American Jewish community. However, during the presidency of Idi Amin, Judaism was outlawed and the Abayudaya were oppressed. Today their community numbers only 200 people and they chose the name “Shearit Yisrael”, meaning remnant of Israel, as a statement of their resilience. The community recently relocated its synagogue to the nearby village

NEW AFFILIATES

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of Nasenyi, and members celebrated Yom Kippur and Sukkot in their new home.

The women's Union is led by Hadassah Nakiza Waluntu (president), Elisheva Kisakye (treasurer) and Ruth Msoo Ngugi (secretary), along with another four board members who form the executive. They are all young women determined to help their community. Their priority is to help the women to gain economic independence through better employment opportunities. The village is dependent on subsistence agriculture and unreliable winter rains. The women often work on their family farms or, if they are allowed to work outside the home to support their families, their husbands control the money.

The Union has set up craft workshops to teach traditional designs for kippot, jewellery and challah cloths, which they plan to sell online and overseas in order to develop a more reliable and independent income stream. This particularly important for the older women who can no longer work in the fields, and it will help to offset the impact of bad weather, crop failures and famine in the community.



Hadassah Nakiza Waluntu with members of the Kahal Kadosh Shearit Yisrael in Putti.

Our affiliate recently held a health conference to talk about issues affecting women and girls, including what can be done to end early child marriage, which is so rampant in Uganda, and how to prevent dangerous infections and diseases that affect women, such as breast cancer, hepatitis B, and sexually transmitted diseases. The goal of UJW-Uganda is to help women recognise their responsibilities and rights so that they can live happily and religiously.

Although Israel does not recognize the tribe's Jewish status, Hadassah was one of 35 young people from eight Abayudaya communities who went to Israel this summer on the first ever Ugandan Birthright trip organized by Taglit Israel and the Masorti Movement. Hadassah is keen to make connections between their small community and larger Jewish communities in South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, the USA, Canada and Israel, in order to strengthen their community and build Jewish families.

Meet ICJW's Four New Life Members

Becoming a Life Member of ICJW is a prestigious honour as only 15 women can hold the title of Participating Life Member at any time. It recognises an extended period of leadership in the organization; to be eligible you must have served as an officer or chair and on the Executive Committee for a minimum of 12 years. Four new Life Members were elected in May 2018 at the Executive Committee meeting held in Sydney, Australia.



Felicia Figlarz Anchor

Felicia has served as advocate and volunteer for over 40 years. Her interest has focused on the history and memory of the Holocaust and she served as chair of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission and chair of the Nashville Holocaust Memorial. Felicia was born to two Holocaust survivors in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Person's Camp. Her family came to America and settled in Toledo, Ohio. She attended Ohio University and received a BA in History and English with Honours. She received her M.S. in Psychology from Vanderbilt University and has certification in Non-Profit Management. She is also a certified Professional Counsellor.

Felicia has held leadership positions in a number of national organizations including the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Jewish Council of Public Affairs, and the International Council of Jewish Women. She was National Vice President of the National Council of Jewish Women USA.

She has been involved in many local leadership positions, including Chairwoman of the Davidson County Human Relations Commission. She was a founder of the Court Appointed Advocate Program for Children in Tennessee and helped to write legislation that resulted in the "Children's First" licence plate funding for child abuse prevention. She was inducted into the Nashville Academy of Women of Achievement and received the National Conference of Community and Justice Human Relations Award and the Bank of America Local Hero Award.

Felicia is married to Dr Kenneth Anchor and has two daughters, Jessica and Stephanie, and three grandchildren.



Anne Godfrey

Anne is a Barrister (British court lawyer) by training and has held many positions in her communities in the UK and Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, Anne chaired the Jewish Community Centre, the Jewish Women's Association, and the Legislative Committee of Business and Professional Women. There she was instrumental in orchestrating a campaign for anti-discrimination legislation which led to the removal of the reservation on CEDAW concerning Hong Kong, which had been put in place by the UK Government. This opened the door for the introduction of equal rights and anti-discrimination legislation.

In the UK, Anne was Vice Chair of her Synagogue, completing the maximum term of 6 years in office. She represents her Synagogue on the Board of Deputies of British Jews, where she served on the Constitution Committee for 3 years. She also serves on the Social Issues Committee and the ICJW Committee of the League of Jewish Women.

Anne first became involved with ICJW while living in Hong Kong, and the first meeting she attended was a conference held in Johannesburg chaired by Helen Marr. She became Co-Chair in turn of the ICJW By-Laws, Constitution, Resolutions and Policies committees and of the Isabelle G. Brown Fund Volunteer Training Committee. Anne has a truly international family, with two of her children living in Tel Aviv, two in London, and one in Dublin, and with 8 grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 24!

Meet ICJW's Four New Life Members

continued



Judy Lever

Judy worked for five years at the Bank of England, mainly in the Economic Intelligence Department, working on forecasting and producing figures for the UK balance of payments. Then, until her retirement in 2014, Judy worked for more than thirty years in Estate Management for a family company. She has also spent over thirty years working as a volunteer representative in the National Health Service. She was elected as a voluntary sector representative to an organization that visits NHS facilities to make recommendations for service improvement, and she went on to chair two of these groups. She currently serves on the NHS Individual Funding Request panel, which considers applications for treatments, procedures and medications for patients whose situations are in some way exceptional.

Judy first joined the League of Jewish Women in 1974 and, apart from the three years that she spent in Johannesburg, where she joined the Union of Jewish Women, she has been an active League member in various local and national roles since then. In addition to other positions, she was League President and UK ICJW Vice President during Leah Aharonov's term of office.

Judy has been actively involved in ICJW since 1998, when June Jacobs ran her ICJW office from within the League office. She has served as Vice Chair of Volunteer Training (Isabelle G. Brown Fund), as Chair of the Environment and Development committee, and as Chair of Community Services working on the E-Links Newsletter. Currently Judy is Chair of the European Region. She is married to Rob and has three married sons and four grandchildren.



Mary Goldberg-Liling

Born in Pau, France during World War II, Mary grew up and lived in many countries including Belgium, Cuba, the US, and Canada. She studied Sociology and Anthropology at the Brussels Free University and at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. For a short time she worked in New York for the Bureau of Information of the European Common Market (later the European Union).

Mary moved to Switzerland in 1970 with her French husband, where her two children were born. As a neighbour of Leila Seigel in Geneva, she first became involved with ICJW in 1979 and assisted Leila as a representative at the Human Rights Commission. Later, living in Belgium, she became an active member of the Council of Jewish Women of Belgium. She had a weekly radio program on women's issues on the local Jewish radio station, Radio Judaica, and she was also involved with the 35's Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

From 2000-2017, Mary together with Karmela Belinki represented ICJW at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and since 2009 she and Léonie de Picciotto have been ICJW representatives at the United Nations in Geneva.

She currently lives in both Geneva and Jerusalem, where she is a supporter of the Rackman Center and their advocacy and counselling work for women's rights. She is also a committed member of the Israeli organisation Women Wage Peace, and she was instrumental in bringing it to the attention of ICJW and to the Herczeg Education Seminar in Tel Aviv in May 2016.

The Sydney Quadrennial Convention

Jewish women leaders from around the world convened in Sydney, Australia, from May 27-30 2018 for the ICJW Quadrennial Convention, hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia. The Convention was entitled “Evolving Beyond Tradition: Women Attaining Goals and Reaching Beyond” and the programme included sessions on Human Rights, Jewish Women in Film, Multicultural Dialogue, the Sexualization of Children, Environmental Entrepreneurship, Political Equality, and ground-breaking Modern Orthodox Women.



Convention delegates enjoyed a tour of the Great Synagogue in Sydney and a Town Hall reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore. The highlight of the event was the evening Sydney Harbour Cruise, which included the VIVID festival of light, music and ideas on the waterfront.



Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, Former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, speaking about women and human rights.



(l to r) Incoming president Penelope Conway with the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Member of New South Wales Parliament and Minister for the Environment, former president Sharon Gustafson, and outgoing president Robyn Lenn.



Delegates from the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa attended the opening ceremony wearing a selection of national costumes from their “rainbow nation”.

DATES FOR FUTURE ICJW EVENTS

November 25 – Dec 10	16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence
December 10	Human Rights Day
March 11-22 201	Commission on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters, New York
May 27-28, 201	ICJW Executive Meeting, Toronto, Canada