

CFUW Policy Book, 1964 – 2019

VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION	1
Abuse of Female Migrants: IFUW, 2010	2
Bullying and Cyberbullying: CFUW, 2013	2
Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools: GWI, 2016	3
Children to be Protected from Incest as a Form of Human and Children’s Rights Violation and as a Form of Domestic Violence: IFUW, 2013	3
Early and Forced Marriage (Child Marriage) as a Form of Human and Children’s Rights Violation: IFUW, 2013	3
Female Genital Mutilation: CFUW, 1979	4
Female Genital Mutilation: GWI, 2016	4
Human Trafficking Violates Human Rights: IFUW, 2010	4
Increased Collective Violence against Women: IFUW, 2004	4
Non-State Actor Torture: IFUW, 2013	5
Prevention of Violence against Women: CFUW, 1992	5
Prostitution: CFUW, 2010	5
Prostitution of Women and Girls: IFUW, 2013	6
Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking: CFUW, 2006	6
Ritual Abuse: CFUW, 1994	6
Ritual Abuse Practices and Treatment: IFUW, 1995	7
Sexual Exploitation of Girls in a Polygamous Community: CFUW, 2005	7
Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children: CFUW, 1997	7
Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Spaces as a Violation of their Human and Civil Rights: GWI, 2016	8
Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Children: IFUW, 1998	8
Trafficking in Human Beings: CFUW, 2001	9
Trafficking in Human Beings: GWI, 2016	10
UN Declaration on Violence and Women: IFUW, 1992	10
Violence at School: IFUW, 1998	10
Violence Directed Against Women: IFUW, 1998	10
Violence Directed Against Women: IFUW, 2013	11

Violence Prevention Education: CFUW, 1992.....	11
Violence-Free Family Life: IFUW, 1998	12
Violence-Free Family Life: IFUW, 2013	12
Wife Assault Victims: CFUW, 1992.....	13
Women's Safety on Post-Secondary Campuses: CFUW, 1993	13
Working Against Trafficking: IFUW, 2013	14

Abuse of Female Migrants: IFUW, 2010

The 30th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to review migration legislation in defense of human rights and, due to the increasing numbers of migrant women, specifically introduce legislation to protect women from discrimination, abuse and exploitation;
2. NFAs urge their respective governments to ratify and implement existing international conventions and instruments on the subject of migration;
3. IFUW use its social networks to discuss the issue and introduce further actions that will help to draw attention to the plight of migrant women; and
4. IFUW use its consultative status to urge the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to urge Member States to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia, related intolerance, and abuse of women and child migrants.

Bullying and Cyberbullying: CFUW, 2013

UWC Montreal Lakeshore

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments of Canada to establish a coordinated strategy to:

1. Raise public awareness about the detrimental effect of bullying and cyberbullying and uphold the legal remedies already in place;
2. Ensure that educational institutions establish or develop programs which train educators and counsellors to recognize and address bullying and cyberbullying by integrating such training into their core curriculum and also into ongoing professional development.
3. Encourage institutions to provide educational programmes for parents to recognize and teach anti-bullying strategies.

RESOLVED That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) support the six recommendations of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights report on “Cyberbullying Hurts: Respect for Rights in the Digital Age” tabled in December 2012 and urge the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations of the report.

Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools: GWI, 2016

The 32nd GWI General Assembly wishes to reaffirm Resolution 1998/9 and resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments and ministries to raise public awareness on the detrimental effect of bullying and cyberbullying, uphold the legal remedies already in place, and advocate for such policies where there are none;
2. NFAs advocate for educational institutions to establish or develop programmes which train educators and counsellors to recognise bullying and cyberbullying, and address the issue by integrating appropriate training into their core curriculum and ongoing professional development; and
3. NFAs encourage institutions to provide educational programmes for parents and guardians to recognize, understand, support and teach anti-bullying strategies.

Children to be Protected from Incest as a Form of Human and Children's Rights Violation and as a Form of Domestic Violence: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to protect young girls and boys from all aspects of domestic violence and abuse;
2. NFAs increase their efforts to make their respective governments recognize incest as a criminal form of domestic violence;
3. NFAs be encouraged to undertake interdisciplinary approaches and seek strong support from their respective governments and the judiciary to increase awareness of incest, including appropriate legislation and publicity of judicial sentences; and
4. IFUW utilize its standing committees, its consultative role with UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNWOMEN to assist in the implementation of this resolution.

Early and Forced Marriage (Child Marriage) as a Form of Human and Children's Rights Violation: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to promote the protection of girls, especially from harmful traditions, harmful cultural practices and harmful religious beliefs;
2. NFAs increase their efforts to make the case of Child Brides public in order to educate families about the negative consequences for child brides so as to protect the human rights of girls;
3. IFUW encourage NFAs to seek strong support from governments and the judiciary, including appropriate legislation and publicity of positive judicial sentences, to increase awareness of early and forced marriage of girls and its

consequent damaging effects; and

4. IFUW utilize its consultative role with UNICEF, UNFPA and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.

Female Genital Mutilation: CFUW, 1979

UWC North York (Ontario)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) in its concern about the prevalence of the ritual mutilation of female genitalia, particularly in Africa, inform the World Health Organization of support for its educational efforts toward eradication; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW approach Canadian authorities to instruct Canada's delegates to the United Nations to promote at the United Nations appropriate means toward the elimination of the practice in its member nations.

Female Genital Mutilation: GWI, 2016

The 32nd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to pass laws to forbid all forms of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Human Trafficking Violates Human Rights: IFUW. 2010

The 30th IFUW Conference resolves that:

National Federations and Associations (NFAs) educate their members about the issue of trafficking as it relates to their countries, including addressing the primary causes that contribute to the practice;

NFAs urge their respective governments to ensure that they have not only signed, but have also ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2003); if their countries have done so, NFAs monitor the status of their government's implementation of the Protocol and take appropriate action where needed; and

IFUW use its standing committees, its consultative status with ECOSOC, its website and member networks to advocate for measures that would reduce the incidence of trafficking.

Increased Collective Violence against Women: IFUW, 2004

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves to:

1. condemn and denounce gender-based killings and violence;
2. demand that responsibility for such killings and violence against women and children be recognized, admitted and punished by the relevant authorities;
3. request the IFUW Board of Officers to urge the UN Commission on Human Rights, in light of increased collective violence against women, to consider the elimination of femicide a fundamental human rights issue;

4. request National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to investigate the response of their own authorities to this emerging issue; and,
 5. request NFAs to urge their own governments to give priority to this issue at the United Nations.
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Non-State Actor Torture: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to exercise due diligence by initiating into their respective laws, policies and practices all appropriate measures to ensure that no person, especially a woman or a child, is subjected to torture by non-state actors;
 2. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to respect the priority of gender-sensitive frameworks on the United Nations agendas, given that women and girls are disproportionately affected by extreme forms of violence and torture by non-state actors;
 3. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to uphold commitments to United Nations human rights instruments they have ratified that pertain to non-state actor torture; and
 4. IFUW utilize its standing committees, its consultative status with ECOSOC at the United Nations, and its website to implement this resolution.
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Prevention of Violence against Women: CFUW, 1992

CFUW Nepean (Ontario) | CFUW Status of Women and Human Rights Committee

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Federal, provincial and territorial governments to take appropriate steps to improve measures to prevent violence against women.

Prostitution: CFUW, 2010

University Women's Club of Vancouver

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada

1. To amend the Criminal Code of Canada which currently prohibits the public purchasing of sexual services, to also prohibit the purchasing of sexual services wherever it occurs, including the media, internet and other technological tools, and to impose criminal sanctions on the purchasers of sexual services;
2. To amend the Criminal Code of Canada so that it no longer criminalizes prostituted persons; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urges provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide essential support services and funding to enable prostituted persons to earn a living free from prostitution.

Prostitution of Women and Girls: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to enact legislation which:
 - a. prohibits the purchasing of sexual services wherever it occurs (including print media, internet and other technological tools);
 - b. imposes criminal sanctions on the purchasers of sexual services; and
 - c. imposes no criminal sanctions on prostituted persons.
2. NFAs urge their respective governments to work at providing for essential support services and funding to enable prostituted persons to earn a living free from prostitution.

Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking: CFUW, 2006

CFUW South Delta (British Columbia)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to enact legislation to protect victims of human trafficking;

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to ensure that such legislation be guided by and be respectful of the human rights of trafficked persons, that it not penalize or criminalize trafficked persons, and that it provide for immediate protection and access to supportive services for trafficked persons; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to ensure that such legislation contain funding provisions that will allow supportive services to be provided in a professional manner.

Ritual Abuse: CFUW, 1994

CFUW North Vancouver (British Columbia)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to:

1. include a definition of ritual abuse;
2. make ritual abuse practices indictable offences;

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to ensure that the treatment and rehabilitation for perpetrators of ritual abuse effectively protects the public, particularly children; and

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the provincial and territorial governments to ensure, through their relevant ministries and agencies, (for example, those dealing with health, welfare, human resources, education and the justice system), that protection, support, and quality therapy for victims of ritual abuse be provided by establishing:

1. accredited specialized programs dealing with ritual abuse, at universities and other institutions that train counsellors and therapists; and
 2. interdisciplinary training for support workers, health professionals, educators, and police, so that they are able to identify victims and advise the appropriate agencies.
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Ritual Abuse Practices and Treatment: IFUW, 1995

RESOLVED, To encourage national federations and associations to urge their respective governments to:

1. include a definition of ritual abuse within appropriate legislation; and
 2. make ritual abuse practices indictable offences;
 3. ensure that the relevant agencies provide protection, support, and quality therapy for victims of ritual abuse by establishing:
 4. at universities and other institutions, accredited specialized programs for training counsellors and therapists dealing with problems of ritual abuse; and
 5. interdisciplinary training for support workers, health professionals, educators, and police, so that they are able to identify victims and advise the appropriate agencies.
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Sexual Exploitation of Girls in a Polygamous Community: CFUW, 2005

CFUW Sunshine Coast (British Columbia)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada and Provincial and Territorial Governments to enforce Section 153 of the Criminal Code regarding the sexual exploitation of girls in polygamous communities.

Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children: CFUW, 1997

CFUW Fredericton (New Brunswick)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to continue to support the World Declaration Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden, 1996;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to enforce legislation to protect women and Children from sexual exploitation by prohibiting international sex tourism to foreign destinations from being organized in Canada;

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial/territorial governments to develop and support educational programmes to raise public awareness of the social, cultural and financial costs of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation; and

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada to maintain or reinstate local offices of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to ensure that

1. regulations governing the issuing of work permits are enforced to prevent the exploitation of women and children;
2. counselling and interpretation services are readily accessible and given a higher

profile; and

3. grievances can be filed locally.

Sexual Harassment of Women and Girls in Public Spaces as a Violation of their Human and Civil Rights: GWI, 2016

The 32nd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to develop both legislation and educational programs for the elimination of all forms of public sexual harassment and to encourage full respect for women and girls;
2. GWI and NFAs work together on raising global awareness of the issue of public sexual harassment of women and girls as a violation of their civil and human rights
3. NFAs advocate that all governments address this issue; and
4. NFAs support the expansion of [UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative](#) launched in 2010 to encourage innovative, locally owned and sustainable approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.

Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Children: IFUW, 1998

RESOLVED, That national federations and associations:

1. urge their governments to support and implement the Declaration and Actions of the World Declaration Against Commercial Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden, 1996; and
2. urge their governments to protect women and children, both male and female, from exploitation by:
 - a. implementing and enforcing laws prohibiting any type of exploitation of women and children especially trafficking and enforced prostitution;
 - b. developing and supporting educational and training programs to raise women and children's awareness of how they can avoid becoming victims of trafficking and ensnared or enforced prostitution;
 - c. developing supporting educational and training programs to raise public awareness of the social, cultural and financial implications of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation;
 - d. implementing and enforcing laws prohibiting sex tourism to foreign countries;
 - e. ensuring that work permits, if applicable, for foreign workers are not just shield for exploitation of women and children; and
 - f. assisting those who become victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Trafficking in Human Beings: CFUW, 2001

CFUW Ottawa (Ontario)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to identify and support appropriate international measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including the early ratification of the UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime (TOC);

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to sponsor and/or conduct research to obtain the necessary information to document the current and developing situation in Canada on issues relating to human trafficking, and identify areas of required policy, program and legislative reform; and take appropriate follow-up action;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to take action domestically, up to and including legislative reform:

1. To clarify the definition of trafficking in human beings to include persons trafficked for the purposes of prostitution, mail-order brides, domestic and other
2. workers, where these persons are lured by false promises of wealth, or legal employment, are exploited, or are otherwise treated in a manner that is not in keeping either with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or with domestic and international instruments in the arena of human and gender rights, labour standards and migration;
3. To actively pursue and prosecute traffickers and others who profit or attempt to profit from the trade in human beings, with all available means, and impose very severe sentences and financial penalties upon conviction;
4. To provide complete protection for victims willing to testify against traffickers through privacy measures, preparations for legal proceedings, physical and psychological recovery procedures, ensuring special requirements for children;
5. To differentiate the victims of traffickers from criminals, provide them with needed legal protection and support mechanisms taking into account the differential gender impact;
6. To establish criteria to provide access, on compassionate grounds, where appropriate, for the victims of traffickers, to legal status in Canada on a temporary (e.g. to prevent immediate deportation) and/or permanent basis; to apply this criteria consistently, and take related action within a reasonable period of time; and

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada to provide needed training and resources to immigration and law enforcement officials to identify and prosecute traffickers in human beings in an efficient and timely manner.

Trafficking in Human Beings: GWI, 2016

The 32nd GWI General Assembly wishes to reaffirm Resolution 2010/5 and resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFA)s urge governments to review and implement existing national legislation, and enact further legislation and regulations to help eradicate human trafficking; and
2. NFAs should continue to raise awareness of this issue.

UN Declaration on Violence and Women: IFUW, 1992

RESOLVED, To urge national federations and associations to assume leadership within their own communities to recognize and address the pervasive and devastating problems of violence against women as a major obstacle to the goals of the UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies - 1985) and urge their respective governments to:

1. promote legislative and appropriate administrative, social and educational measures required to protect women from violence in all its forms;
2. support the draft resolution "Violence Against Women in all its Forms" by the UN Commission on the Status of Women, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 36th Session, together with the Report of the Secretary General (E/CN.6/1992/L.B./Rev. 1, 18 March 1992) and
3. participate with other Member States in the intercessional working group to further develop a draft declaration on violence against women for report to the Commission at its 37th Session.

Violence at School: IFUW, 1998

RESOLVED, That national federations and associations urge their respective Ministries of National Education and other concerned Ministries to:

1. take effective action to counter all forms of violence at school and ensure the security of all those at risk, with particular concern for the safety of young girls and teenagers; and
2. develop awareness of the need to counter all forms of violence, ranging from bullying to sexual aggression and drug addiction, and to include education for peace in the programs of all concerned Ministries.

Violence Directed Against Women: IFUW, 1998

As violence directed against women is reaching an intolerable level in certain countries and situations,

RESOLVED, That national federations and associations

1. ask their respective governments to condemn all forms of violence directed against women and use every available means to bring such abuses to an end;

2. encourage their members to engage in this campaign and to report on the results of their efforts in order to measure the impact achieved; and
3. encourage their governments to support actively United Nations Conventions and Commissions, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and to put pressure on other governments to do likewise.

Violence Directed Against Women: IFUW, 2013

Violence Directed Against Women (1998, No. 7)

As violence directed against women is reaching an intolerable level in certain countries and situations,

RESOLVED, that national federations and associations

1. ask their respective governments to condemn all forms of violence directed against women and use every available means to bring such abuses to an end; and
2. encourage their members to engage in this campaign and to report on the results of their efforts in order to measure the impact achieved;
3. encourage their governments to support actively United Nations Conventions and Commissions, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and to put pressure on other governments to do likewise.

And wishes to update it by the following addition: The 31st Conference resolves that:

1. NFAs urge their governments to recognise as an instrumental model the value of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No.: 210) in their countries.
2. NFAs encourage their respective governments if relevant to ratify or accede to this Convention;
3. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to review their criminal law so that it complies with international law to ascertain that all forms of domestic violence are duly addressed and persons acting against the laws are punished; and
4. NFAs advocate for social and legal recognition that rape is possible within marriage, and that, if committed, it constitutes a criminal offence.

Violence Prevention Education: CFUW, 1992

CFUW Oakville (Ontario)

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to continue to exercise their leadership roles to ensure security of the person and to promote zero tolerance to violence for Canadian women in the following ways:

1. by expanding the multi-media education campaign on violence against women;

2. by working with relevant professions and community groups to promote strong and consistent violence-prevention education; and
 3. by working together to ensure that the community has adequate resources to accommodate the demand for services for abused women and children resulting from the increased education on violence.
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Violence-Free Family Life: IFUW, 1998

RESOLVED, That all national federations and associations promote the development and implementation of programs that address the problem of domestic violence with particular reference to the human rights of women and children and that these programs be concerned specifically with:

1. demanding legislation and adequate resources to prevent domestic violence and to protect the victims;
 2. encouraging research by governments, universities and private institutions into the incidence, causes, nature and effects of family violence;
 3. addressing the social conditions that lead to family violence;
 4. rising awareness through the media, seminars and study programs of the increasing levels of violence against women and girls;
 5. ensuring that, because of the widespread and increasing incidence of family violence in many societies, education for the peaceful resolution of conflict is included in school curricula at all levels;
 6. establishing shelters in the community where those abused can receive protection and support;
 7. disseminating information widely about success to help in crises; and
 8. developing and supporting strategies whose effectiveness is proven in breaking self-perpetuating patterns of family violence.
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Violence-Free Family Life: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference reaffirms Resolution 1998/4 Promoting Violence-Free Family Life (1998, No. 4)

RESOLVED, that national federations and associations promote the development and implementation of programmes that address the problem of domestic violence with particular reference to the human rights of women and children and that these programmes be concerned specifically with:

1. demanding legislation and adequate resources to prevent domestic violence and to protect the victims;
2. encouraging research by governments, universities and private institutions into the incidence, causes, nature and effects of family violence;
3. addressing the social conditions that lead to family violence;
4. raising awareness through the media, seminars and study programmes of the

increasing levels of violence against women and girls;

5. ensuring that, because of the widespread and increasing incidence of family violence in many societies, education for the peaceful resolution of conflict is included in school curricula at all levels;
6. establishing shelters in the community where those abused can receive protection and support;
7. disseminating information widely about access to help in crises;
8. developing and supporting strategies whose effectiveness is proven in breaking self-perpetuating patterns of family violence;

And wishes to update it with the following addition:

The 31st Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations call upon the appropriate level of
2. government to conduct campaigns that emphasize the need for equality between women and men as a key element in the prevention of violence against women and girls;
3. NFAs urge that human rights education become a priority within all school curricula with particular emphasis on family violence as an abuse of human rights; and
4. NFAs increase their efforts to urge their governments and private institutions to fund research to assist authorities in recognizing all forms of domestic violence.

Wife Assault Victims: CFUW, 1992

UWC North York (Ontario)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge its members to promote the use of violence prevention education programs in their communities; and

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women at all levels of the organization, work to ensure that victims of wife assault receive the information, shelter and protection required to enable them to establish lives free of terror.

Women's Safety on Post-Secondary Campuses: CFUW, 1993

UWC Montreal Inc. (Quebec)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) bring to the attention of university, college, and other post-secondary institutional authorities the necessity of conducting safety audits in all areas on campuses in order to prevent all types of aggression towards women (physical, psychological or sexual);

RESOLVED, That CFUW encourage its members to promote women's safety at post-secondary institutions by establishing close links with officials in charge of equity offices, women's committees, feminist research centres, etc.;

RESOLVED, That CFUW strongly support these committees by providing them with the latest bibliography concerning violence against women on post-secondary campuses; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the provincial and territorial governments to provide grants for research on violence and to provide grants to ensure proper safety measures for women on post-secondary campuses.

Working Against Trafficking: IFUW, 2013

The 31st IFUW Conference reaffirms:

Trafficking and Exploitation of Women and Children (1998)

RESOLVED, that national federations and associations

1. urge their governments to support and implement the Declaration and Actions of the World Declaration Against Commercial Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden, 1996; and
2. urge their governments to protect women and children, both male and female, from exploitation by:
 - a. implementing and enforcing laws prohibiting any type of exploitation of women and children especially trafficking and enforced prostitution;
 - b. developing and supporting educational and training programmes to raise women and children's awareness of how they can avoid becoming victims of trafficking and ensnared or enforced prostitution;
 - c. developing and supporting educational and training programmes to raise public awareness of the social, cultural and financial implications of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation;
 - d. implementing and enforcing laws prohibiting sex tourism to foreign countries;
 - e. ensuring that work permits, if applicable, for foreign workers are not just shields for exploitation of women and children; and
 - f. assisting those who become victims of trafficking and exploitation.

And also reaffirms Human Trafficking Violates Human Rights (2010): The 30th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) educate their members about the issue of trafficking as it relates to their countries, including addressing the primary causes that contribute to the practice;
2. NFAs urge their respective governments to ensure that they have not only signed, but have also ratified the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (2003); if their countries have done so, NFAs monitor the status of their government's implementation of the Protocol and take appropriate action where needed; and
3. IFUW use its standing committees, its consultative status with ECOSOC, its

website and member networks to advocate for measures that would reduce the incidence of trafficking.

It wishes to update them with the following addition: The 31st IFUW Conference Resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to seek to end all forms of trafficking by introducing the concept of gender sensitivity in all circumstances that imply human trafficking; and
2. NFAs urge their respective governments to increase knowledge on trafficking, disseminate this widely and, when appropriate, ensure that combatting trafficking is a priority on all political agendas, and urge their governments to appoint an independent national rapporteur on trafficking.