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E - BULLETIN

December, 2011

Christmas ISSUE

CALLING OUR ALLIANCE – OUR MEMBERS AND YOUR MEMBERS, YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS

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NAWO needs your help! Women's Rights are being disregarded and undermined in many parts of the world. Here in the UK women are suffering disproportionately from the cuts and we need to protect yet again our right to reproductive choice and health. NAWO seeks to provide an essential Collective Voice.

We know you are being inundated with requests for help and that things are tight but we hope you will be able to respond to this appeal. PLEASE send us as much as you can (every little helps)!

We urgently require a fully functioning web site and we also need job security for our coordinator without whom we could not run an office nor manage a team of great interns. In other words, without these two vital resources, we would be a great deal less effective than you need us to be and than we seek to be. Indeed current research published by the WRC and reported below demonstrates the considerable return on investment made by women's organisations to women's well-being while also benefitting the state.

As you know, for the past year we have been trying to re-design our website. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, we have been unable to complete the process despite much voluntary input. Having a good website is crucial to the development and exposure of NAWO and if we are to meet the needs of our members working for women's human rights, and to continue our presence, it is imperative that our social media tools reflect what we are doing and help us to develop in the future.

We very much appreciate how hard it is for everyone right now in the current climate, but it is at times like these that a collective voice is so important. We look to our Alliance to help with this issue and ask you all to do-

nate both to the development of the website and to our costs, with as little or as much as you can give. Our target is £1000 for the web site and another £10,000 towards our coordinator. With the help of you who are our Alliance, we surely can achieve this and look forward to reaching the first £1,000!

Any amount of money, no matter how modest, makes a difference to our work. We will be running other fund-raising events in the new year and of course seeking grants. Meanwhile, If you can bring in one new member – that doubles your income to us in one fell swoop and makes our collective voice more meaningful!

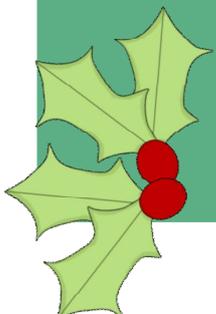
We offer a choice of easy ways to give:

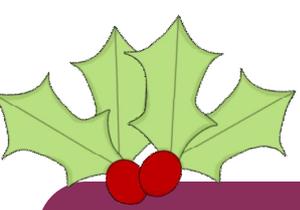
- Paying by directly by bank transfer: Account Number: 31457241 Sort Code: 40-22-26
- Sending a cheque to: NAWO @ WRC, Ground Floor East, 33 -41 Dallington Street, London EC1V 0BB.
- Or [contacting us](mailto:admin@nawo.org.uk) at admin@nawo.org.uk for details of other ways to give

Please be sure to forward this e-bulletin to all your members. Individual contributions are equally important of course to us! **Please do keep NAWO going and respond as generously as you can.**

Thank you so much,

Annette (Lawson)
 Chair





Launching the 'August 12th Campaign': The Anniversary of U.S Signing of the 1949 Geneva Convention

NAWO are writing to President Obama to urge him to reaffirm United States support for the Geneva Conventions. This campaign has been launched to demand that he removes blanket abortion prohibitions on US humanitarian aid to girls and women raped in armed conflict.

We are doing this alongside the Global Justice Centre and a consortium of over 3,000 legal, human rights, humanitarian, public health, and other organisations. The consortium represents individuals from Africa, Europe, Latin America, Canada and the US.

Norway became the first country to formally recommend the removal of the blanket abortion restrictions on 5th November, 2010, citing a Global Justice Centre report to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations.

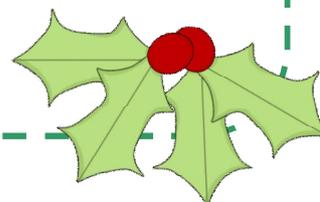
On 18th March, 2011, the US responded that it could not do so due to 'currently applicable restrictions'. As a matter of law, President Obama has the power and duty to act on this.

The letters to President Obama clearly communicate the global outrage over the fact that the most vulnerable of war victims - girls and women impregnated by rape as a weapon of war - are being denied, by the very organisation empowered to help them, the comprehensive and non-discriminate medical care required by international law.

We hope that President Obama's response shows his commitment to US compliance with the Geneva Conventions and that he will lift the abortion restrictions, thus ensuring that the U.S will not continue to magnify the suffering of girls and women raped in conflict.

To get involved with the Global Justice Centre's Campaign write your own letter to President Obama asking him to issue an executive order lifting U.S. abortion restrictions on humanitarian aid for girls and women raped in armed conflict. For more information on the campaign and details of what to include in the letter click [here](#)

To read NAWO's letter to President Obama click [here](#)



A Squeezed Sector: Women's Sector Finance Under Pressure

By Sarah Collinson

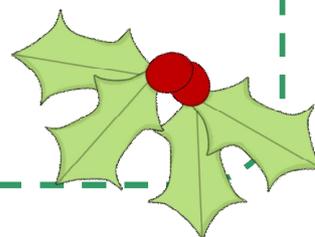
In the current economic climate it seems that those who are the least well off in society – and those organisations which dedicate their time and resources to helping the most vulnerable within our global community – are under the most pressure financially. This obviously comes at a time when society needs these organisations the most. In the women's sector, many organisations are under financial pressure – with crippling consequences – just at a time when women and families all over the world are facing difficulties in the current crisis; for example earlier this year the European Commission highlighted concerns over a link between financial difficulty and an increase in domestic violence.

One World Action is one organisation that has suffered such consequences this year. At the end of March, the organisation was forced to close due to having insufficient income to maintain both its current projects and its running costs. According to its website, OWA was formed when there was no Department for International Development, and prides itself on having seen commitments on aid and gender equality realised over its lifetime. While the organisation's projects in Africa have been passed to Womankind, and projects in India, Bangladesh and Europe are now looked after by other partners, it is clearly a significant setback for progress on women's issues on the international stage.

Another setback at the international level is that the forthcoming Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), due to start in February next year, is currently without a 'Western European and other States Group'

nomination. This is at the inter governmental level. In addition the European Women's Lobby, which is the leading NGO for Europe is unable to attend due to financial constraints, meaning that Europe will, at present, not have a representative voice on the bureau (which is the executive for CSW) nor at NGO level. Yet CSW will focus on the empowerment of women especially within rural communities. NAWO, NIWEP and other European member organisations of EWL will seek to represent women at European level. NAWO is of course representative for women in England on EWL which plays a significant role in campaigning for women's rights in Europe. Recent campaigns have challenged prostitution and called for a strong EU response to violence against women.

It is therefore vital in the current climate to ensure that local groups and umbrellas like NAWO continue their work in supporting women in their communities and raising awareness of the issues that are at stake on the world stage. Local authorities need to be called to account to ensure that spending cuts do not have a disproportionate impact on women's lives within the UK, and attention needs to be drawn across society to the need for an international response to women's empowerment – vital in particular to the overall efforts for economic and social progression in many developing countries. Here's hoping that 2012 will bring a continuation of the sector's fantastic commitment, and a society more supportive of international efforts.



An Australian Dilemma

By Annette Lawson

In the Northern Territory of Australia, many of the Aboriginal population live a now more or less settled life. As I travelled round Australia in October, I was privileged to listen to Jacinta, daughter of one of the leading women activists, Bess Price, talk about one of the most praised and simultaneously reviled programmes introduced by the Australian government of recent years known as the Intervention, also originally, in 2007, when it was brought in, known as the Emergency Response.

The Intervention is a profoundly feminist issue because it is the result of growing anxiety about child abuse – particularly the sexual abuse of girls by old and older men – and domestic violence. It is also a feminist issue because women within the Aboriginal community/ies and outside it are divided as to the rightness or wrong-ness of the whole programme.

Bess Price and her daughter strongly support the programme. Essentially they argue that Aboriginals do not accept their internal problems, do not take responsibility for them and will not seek to move forward in modern times when there are virtually no unmixed race people and when the original culture which contained oppressive features particularly for women, has broken down and cannot, in any event be pursued. It cannot be pursued, and many say, should not, since the complex rules, for example, of possible sexual partnerships were oppressive too and the punishments that were meted out harsh and forbidden by modern law. A spear through the thigh of a man who gets 'his leg over' the 'wrong' woman, or death to a woman who goes with a forbidden man cannot be carried out now.

But there are many opposing voices too. Indeed, [James Anaya](#), a [United Nations](#) Special Rapporteur, found the Emergency Response to be racially discriminating and to infringe on the human rights of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. Anaya acknowledged that emergency action was needed but said that measures like banning alcohol and pornography and quarantining a percentage of welfare income for the purchase of essential goods represented a limitation on "individual autonomy". However, [Bess Price](#) criticised the UN for not sending a female rapporteur and said that Anaya had been 'led around by opponents of the intervention to meet with opponents of the intervention'. He has an-

swered this criticism saying that he had been struck by women's organisations which had voiced clear opposition to the Intervention.

It does not take a difficult search of the web to find these voices. Above all the policies are seen as imposition and as removing human rights to autonomy of choice. Certainly all seem agreed that the consultation with the Aboriginal people was and is seriously flawed. Aren't they all? **Who** is it our own coalition government listens to? **Which voices** does it hear? **Which does it heed?**

In the end it is Bess Price who also voices the concerns:

"The government gets it wrong because it consults with the wrong people. It gets it wrong because it cannot help people who won't, or don't know how to, help themselves. We want to be able to help ourselves.

We want leaders who will lead us out of our misery, not sit around whingeing about how hard their lives are when they have the jobs and the power. We want leaders who tell us that we are not victims who can't do a thing for ourselves but sit around dying while we wait for the government to get it right.

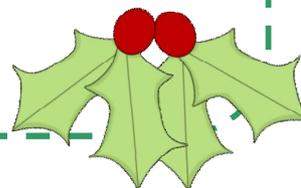
We want leaders who will convince our own mob to stop drinking, fighting and feuding, who will get our kids into school so we can produce our own professors of indigenous rights who can go to your country to listen to your people's stories."

And, in 2011, after more than three years of the Intervention, she said,

'I am for the intervention because I've seen progress. I've seen women who now have voices. They can speak for themselves and they are standing up for their rights. Children are being fed and young people more or less know how to manage their lives. That's what's happened since the intervention'

Please note, I am no expert – just a disturbed and profoundly interested observer.

Annette Lawson



Hidden value: Demonstrating the extraordinary impact of women's voluntary and community organisations

NAWO which is, as you know, is housed by the Women's Resource Centre (WRC) welcomes the publication of their new report, '*Hidden Value...*', which demonstrates there is a considerable social return on investment when women's organisations are funded. This report was produced in collaboration with five London-based women's organisations, with support from [new economics foundation](#).

Conducted over a two year period, '*Hidden Value...*' highlights the far reaching benefits of the services provided by women's organisations and the significant savings they create for the state, local economies and communities.

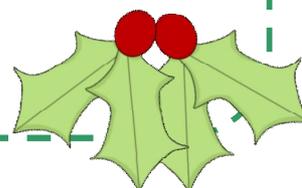
Key findings from the report include:

- For every pound invested into their services, women's organisations can generate, over five years, between £5 and £11 worth of social value to women, their children, and the state.
- On average, 71% of women who received face to face counselling at Rape Crisis South London (RASASC) reported feeling more able to make positive choices and live healthier lives.
- Improvements in personal well-being, social relationships, independence and reduction in suicide for women and girls attending the Women and Girls Network (WGN) counselling service.
- 63% of South Sudan Women's Skills Development (SSWSD) service users' children experienced improvements in their future employment opportunities.

Calling the findings a "wake-up call", the report recommends to government and to commissioners that they develop a better understanding of the incredible value of such specialist services and of investing in them appropriately.

This research demonstrates that supporting women supports families - and supports society. It is vital that women's organisations and the crucial work that they do is sustained by long-term funding and greater political and community support.

We hope you find this report an insightful piece of research and a clear demonstration of the value of women-focused voluntary and community organisations. If you have any queries about the research or the wider work of the Women's Resource Centre, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Policy team at policy@wrc.org.uk or on 020 7324 3030.



Getting Involved with your Parliaments- Cardiff and Liverpool

Together with the UK Parliament and European Parliamentary outreach teams, NAWO has been running a series of seminars to empower women to make changes 'beyond the vote'. These seminars were non partisan and open to members of the public.

The last of the two outreach programmes in the series were held in Cardiff and Liverpool, with our very own June Jacobs (Vice Chair) speaking in Cardiff and one of our trustees, Monica Threlfall rounding off the series in Liverpool.

Both events were huge successes, attracting large numbers of participants. It was fantastic that we were able to get around the country during 2011 and hopefully have had an impact on encouraging more women to think about how they can get politically involved beyond the vote.

NAWO would like to give a big thank you to all who attended, and give special thanks Elisabeth Sweeny for organising the event and to the Houses of Parliament Outreach team. Thanks to you all for making these events vibrant and memorable.

NAWO will be continuing to work with the Parliamentary Outreach department of Europe House and will be organising more events including something for International Women's Day. Watch this space!!

56th Commission on the Status of Women

It's that time again: registration for the Commission on the Status of Women is now open. As an accredited member of [ECOSOC](#) we have been given 20 places to register both organisational and individual members of NAWO wishing to attend.

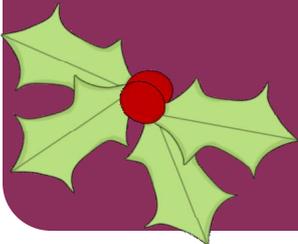
The event will run from 27th February 2012- 9th March 2012 and at present we have 13 places remaining and if you would like to attend, please contact Vicki at admin@nawo.org.uk to register for a place.

The deadline for registration is **17th January** so do make sure you have contacted Vicki in advance so she can register you before the deadline closes.

Details on fringe events and further information on CSW will be provided in the New Year.

Merry Yuletide from NAWO

The NAWO office will be closed from 16th December to 3rd January - we would like to wish you all a Merry Xmas, Happy Chanukah, Good Solstice Dreaming and a Very HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dates for your diary

Double your donation for free and help end Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia

Womankind

05 December 2012

From 5-9th Dec, any donation you make to Womankind via the Big Give website will be matched at no extra cost to you. So, your £25 donation will be worth £50 to Womankind, enabling twice as many women to transform their lives.

For more information follow the link <http://bit.ly/donatetowomankind> or email

My Body and Me

Saturday, 21 January, 2012, 11am-5pm

NOVOTEL, London Tower Bridge, 10 Pepys Street, EC3N 2NR

Women's Professional - Personal Development Workshop & Edutainment Boost Confidence - Self Esteem - Motivation - Body Image - Communication Skills - Assertiveness - Personal Impact Take away techniques and user friendly NLP skills to enable and support personal growth and well being socially, at home and in the workplace.

Early Bird: £75 (2 @ £65 each)

To book a place call: 07984 306661 or book online at <http://www.mybodyandme.co.uk/>

'Victims of trafficking and the law: Issues of identification'

23 January 2012

Bristol Law School

This FREE conference, for third sector and public sector organisations, is aimed at building individual and organisational capacity to identify victims of trafficking and respond effectively. Specialist legal practitioners working in the field of human trafficking from London and the South-West of England and Wales will lead practical and interactive sessions on identifying victims of trafficking and their rights under a range of protective measures

For a booking form please contact Rebecca Collins at the AIRE Centre: events@airecentre.org or tel: 020 7831

Call for Papers

'Going Underground? Gender and Subcultures'

Contributions from literature, film and television, art, photography, cultural studies, theatre, gender studies, psychology and sociology, history and politics are particularly welcome.

Performance proposals and innovative presentation methods are encouraged.

Proposals should be sent to claire.nally@northumbria.ac.uk and rosemary.white@northumbria.ac.uk by **1st April 2012**.

The notion of 'subcultures', articulated most prominently by Dick Hebdige in his 1979 seminal work, *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*, has undergone much revision in recent years. However a critical engagement with gender remains absent within the majority of work on 'subcultures'. Indeed, Angela McRobbie's (1980) 'Settling Accounts with Subcultures: A Feminist Critique' provides the cornerstone of our symposium, in terms of interrogating how gender is articulated in 'underground' cultural and social environments. The question of whether 'subculture' is still a valid term and how far 'sub cultural' manifestations are reductively incorporated into the mainstream are relevant topics on the academic agenda. However research of girls and women's sub cultural productions and engagements from queer, feminist and transgender scholars (e.g. Jack Halberstam, Doreen Piano, Susan Driver, Elizabeth K Keenan, Mary Celeste Kearney and Kath Browne) carve out a new territory for understanding the 'sub cultural'. Given this re-evaluation, it is timely to re-engage with how 'sub cultural' genders (both femininities and masculinities) are represented in alternative society and discuss how far this can be politically subversive. For instance, the revival, nostalgia and popularity of rockabilly style, burlesque, roller derby, Slutwalks, Ladyfests, fanzine/blogging networks, Suicide Girls, Guerilla Girls, riot grrrl and the participation of girls in underground music cultures all point to the need for an academic engagement with strategies of cultural resistance to dominant identities and norms.

Proposals of **200 words** on subjects dating from the twentieth century onwards are invited in but not confined to, the following areas:

- Commodity, mass culture and globalised cultures.
- 'Bedroom cultures': fanzines, magazines, gaming, social networking, blogs.
- Gender and 'Urban Tribes', 'Neo-tribes' and 'scenes'.
- Youth culture, activism, ageing, politics and resistance.
- Fictions, films, archives, photography and art.
- The body: identity, fashion, aesthetics, tattooing, piercing and body modification
- Music: jazz, hip-hop, heavy metal, punk, goth, rockabilly, riot grrrl
- Sexual representation: queers, lesbians, gays, non-monogamy, straight, fetish.
- Underground/amateur sports: roller derby, baseball, football, softball, rounders.
- Race and racial identities.

Call for Papers

Porno-graphics and porno-tactics: desire, affect and representation in pornography

Guest editors: Eirini Avramopoulou and Irene Peano are soliciting contributions from academics, artists, activists and practitioners (in whatever combination) for a publication: Articles (in English, Greek, French, Spanish, Italian) should not exceed **1500-2000 words** in length.

Please send your contributions in electronic format to: guesteditors@re-public.gr

Deadline for submissions: **28 February 2011**

Pornography's inscriptions in representation have troubled feminist writers, who since the 1970s have been critically addressing issues related to the presentation of the female body. Porn, it was contended, is for the most part a heterosexist genre, and its market circulation serves male libidinal pleasure, fixing the position of pleasure for both wo/men and abiding by patriarchal, gendered and sexually imposed norms. Later, the term was reclaimed under a critical re-perception of porn, cast as a gaze upon different others. This time race, religion, class came to the forefront. From Rosi Braidotti who addresses issues of racism in islamophobic representations such as the documentary 'Fitna', to the many commentators who related pornography to acts of torture, most notably in Abu-Ghraib (McClintock 2009) – pornography becomes a 'concept metaphor' that haunts autonomy (the laws of the self) through an heteronomous (laws of the other) affect (cf. Nancy 2007). Similarly, in debates over forced sex-work, the voyeuristic humanitarian gaze produces its Others either by sexualizing the other's body, or by desexualizing the human in it.

On the other hand, many newly emerging artworks, documentaries, and porn productions, attempt to exscribe from porn it's initial, normatively repressed qualities, and re-inscribe a feminist or queer perception of enjoyment and pleasure through feminine jouissance and the possibilities to push the limits of representation. In such tactics (de Certeau 1984), porn does not only become a concept-metaphor but, rather, it is being worked through a radical metonymic approach which seeks to transgress norms, explore desires and open up to affects. Tactics thus become tactile.

The promise of the politics of performativity that one can read when a term is reclaimed so as to reproduce it in difference, however, always defines the premise of possible misfire (Butler 1997). We propose to reflect on pornography from the point of view both of the 'politics of representation' which it may apply, subvert, reproduce and perform, and also of its 'affective and libidinal' dimension. We do not claim the euphoric potentiality of pornography as necessarily subversive, but we open to the possibilities of re-writing (in textual, contextual, intertextual) on/about it through different graphic and tactical/tactile inscriptions.

Therefore, on the one hand we ask contributors to reflect on definitions and practices of pornography as a genre adopting specific codes and canons, whether it is concerned with sex acts or with other subjects of representation. Can the term 'pornography' be used un-troubled, or without questioning its initial inscription as a per se normative vision in representation and other forms of (embodied, inter/subjective) desire? How easy is it to reclaim it as a term? What would this entail? To what extent are discursive forms efficacious in shaping subjectivities, and how we might understand their failures and excesses? What might pornographic representations conceal?

Thus, we are brought to the second aspect of pornography as experience, in its affective, libidinal, inter/subjective dimensions. How does the affective intersect with the symbolic? Where, if at all, lies the potential for pornographic experience/representation to subvert existing mechanisms of subjectivity? And what kind of economic, (bio)political deployments do representations and affects intersect with?

Vacancies

Rape Crisis (England and Wales)

Job type: Volunteer

Closing Date: 16 January 2012

Salary: n/a

Details: RASASC is a registered charity dedicated to providing services to female survivors of sexual violence. We run the Rape Crisis National Sexual Violence Helpline, offer face to face and group counseling, an Advocacy Service for survivors going through the Criminal Justice System and we are firmly committed to ending violence against women & girls and raising awareness about the myths surrounding rape. Our service is a very busy woman only service with around 60 staff and volunteers. We are based in Croydon & have 6 meetings a year at the Centre or at other Board Members homes in Surrey and Kent. We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed woman to join our friendly team of voluntary trustees to provide strong leadership and act as an ambassador for the organisation.

How to apply: Email admin@rasasc.org.uk for an information pack

Phone: 0208 683 3311

Email: admin@rasasc.org.uk

Website: www.rasasc.org.uk

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Job type: Communications and Section Liaison Manager

Location: Geneva

Closing Date: 2nd January, 2012

Details: The Communications Manager (CM) of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has the overall responsibility of establishing and maintaining a structure for the internal and external communication of the organization. The CM is based at the international secretariat in Geneva. This job description identifies the different responsibilities of the CM and requirements for application.

Responsibilities

Internal Information/Communication:

- Establishes productive, regular close communication with WILPF Sections, throughout all continents and countries. Offers support and guidance to new Sections and to those experiencing difficulties.
- Coordinates work of international secretariat, international projects and sections.
- Develops programmes and structures to enhance membership expansion and involvement in WILPF's work.
- Develops a communications' toolkit: templates for official statements, PowerPoint format, etc.
- Works with Executive Committee, Secretary General and Office Manager in preparation of International Board Meetings, Congresses and other international events.
- Updates WILPF International Directory.
- Administrates international mailing lists.

External Information/Communication:

- Maintains WILPF international email accounts.
- Produces and sends the newsletter from the international secretariat, gathering information from the SG, the President, highlights from international projects and highlights from sections. The newsletter is distributed 4 times per year.
- Circulates WILPF newsletters, including project newsletters, information from Standing Committees and Working Groups, and WILPF Statements.
- Ensures representation of International WILPF in relevant official and unofficial meetings agreed with the Secretary General.

Vacancies

Web and Social Media:

- Administrates WILPF's website www.wilpfinternational.org
- Administrates WILPF on social media – Facebook and Twitter
- Develops and manages interactive communications tools
- Develops and manages WILPF's presence in social media

Campaigns:

- Develops, organizes and produces information material for campaigns in cooperation with Sections, the SG and the Office Manager.
- Develops, organizes and produces recruitment campaign in cooperation with Sections, the SG and the Office Manager.

Requirements

Technical requirements:

Knowledge of communications and database management software: web development/design/maintenance such as Illustrator, Indesign and Photoshop – as well as common computer programs and online web tools.

Academic requirements:

- University degree in communications or equivalent.
- 3+ years of experience in a similar position.
- Prior experience in NGOs, UN system and/or Campaign organizations a plus.

General requirements:

- Ability to establish priorities and to maintain variety of projects and activities simultaneously.
- Excellent fluency in written and spoken English (additional language is an advantage).
- Good knowledge of and interest in WILPF's work, aims and principles.
- Good knowledge of Women and Peace Security a plus.

Duration: Temporary contract, initial period of 12 months Terms: Full time with 3-month probation

Based in: Geneva, Switzerland Pay: 68'000 CHF (Gross salary)

Start date: ASAP or by the end of February 2012 at latest

To apply: Please submit your resume and cover letter to inforequest@wilpf.ch with "Application for Communications Manager Position" in the subject for consideration.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org>

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FIXED TERM CONTRACT)

Womankind Worldwide is an international women's human rights and development charity, working with partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America to help women and girls transform their lives.

We are looking for an experienced Interim Executive Director to cover the period from the end of February while we recruit a permanent Director. The period of appointment will be for 3 – 6 months. If you share our beliefs, are creative, have strategic vision and excellent management skills we would like to hear from you.

For more information and to apply please download an application pack from: <http://www.womankind.org.uk/about/our-team/working-for-womankind/>

or email: recruitment@womankind.org.uk