

Message from the President

Dear members and friends,

The last 18 months have been unlike anything we have ever experienced and most of our work has had to be rethought. Usually our advocacy work and community engagement involves one-to-one contact, which has not been possible. It therefore seemed more useful and relevant to concentrate on the many ways our Affiliates have adapted.



Meetings have been held on Zoom; conferences have become webinars; advocacy has involved more letter-writing than demonstrations; home and hospital visits have become regular phone calls; and education classes have gone online.

I was delighted to see the different ways our members have risen to the many challenges of the pandemic and I hope you enjoy reading about them.

The Herczeg Seminar is planned for November in Jerusalem and I hope that as many of you as possible will join us for our first face-to-face meeting in two years. Although ICJW has carried on during the pandemic, we have all missed the personal interaction.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and the gradual return to 'normality'.

Best wishes,

Penelope Conway
President, ICJW

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Introduction to E-Links

Our E-Links 2021 reflects the unprecedented times in which we find ourselves. One of the primary aims of our ICJW community newsletters is to help us all feel connected - something that is even more vital today.

During the pandemic, time seems to have passed slowly, and yet well over a year has passed. As we still feel its impact, we wonder if and when life will go back to normal, while realizing that the meaning of 'normal' will have to be reimagined.

COVID 19 has brought new challenges to our lives and to the volunteer work we do. It is inspiring to see that so many of our affiliates are still actively finding new and creative ways to continue with their projects and programs, in order to assist, support and uplift their own and other communities.

As we look ahead with a mixture of optimism and pragmatism, we thank our contributors and commend them for sharing how they continue to carry out their valuable work.

Clarita Spitz and Deirdre Hart,
ICJW Community Services Coordinators

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

ARGENTINA

[The Argentinian Jewish Women's Network](#) managed to run one online event every month during the pandemic, covering women's issues, current affairs and social issues. Zoom allowed them to stay in touch with a wide and growing audience, including some men.



Most recently they heard from an Argentine-Israeli journalist about what is happening in Israel and how to counter the fake news and insults circulating on social networks during the conflict with Hamas. Over 100 people participated to hear about the scope and consequences of the conflict.

They produced a publication with Jewish, social and cultural content, sharing news and views from the network of Argentine Jewish Women and from the Argentine Jewish community. One edition focused on Women & Art, with guest articles about literature, art and dance.



The committee has also focused on the local situation and held internal meetings to work out what can be done to ease the confinement and loneliness of many older women.

COSTA RICA

[Las Damas Voluntarias de Bnai Israel](#) in Costa Rica were not only affected by COVID; in November a Category 4 storm called Hurricane Eta hit the islands.

In response to the crisis, the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nei Israel in San Jose organized donations to help the families affected. In December they collected 600 gifts for the children of the San Lázaro Home.

In December they organized an online talk by their Rabbi about Christmas and Chanukah and in February Rabbi David Laor gave a Zoom lecture on Liberal Judaism in Israel. Before Pesach, they gave vulnerable members of their community special food baskets with grocery items for Pesach.

In April they celebrated Good Deeds Day by organizing a collection to help an extremely poor fishing island, which has been hit hard economically by the pandemic. On the Island of Chirá there are six villages with two schools and a college, so they collected hygiene items and school supplies for them.

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

CROATIA

In last year's newsletter we reported on the disastrous earthquake that struck Zagreb during the COVID lockdown. Melita Švob from the [Union of Jewish Women in Croatia](#) reports that their community buildings were damaged and are still unusable, including their old age home and kindergarten, and they have been working to help members whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

The pandemic hit their country particularly hard, with a shortage of vaccines, so people stayed at home and established a strong communication network and website to keep people connected. Now most of the elderly population is vaccinated and they have kept their social support programs running. Melita even organized Zoom gymnastics classes! She also managed to publish a book commemorating the 20th anniversary of her CENDO research institute.

The [CENDO Research and Documentation Center](#) investigates the history of the Jews in Croatia who perished in the Holocaust. Melita started this project while working at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies in Zagreb. She has built a database of Holocaust victims, with support from the Claims Conference and Joint Distribution Committee and with help from many young people who participated in data collection and analysis. The data has been validated and corrected over the past 15 years.

Under Melita's leadership, and with support from Croatia's Ministry of Science, Ministry of Culture, and the Council for National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia, CENDO has developed into an important scientific, professional and social institution, presenting data at international symposia and conferences, and publishing in various books and journals.



The CENDO offices in Palmotičeva Street, Zagreb (l) and Dr. Melita Švob (r)

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

ECUADOR



The [Sociedad Femenina Israelita de Quito](#) in Ecuador continued its regular activities, delivering birthday cards gifts to seniors (80+), distributing Challot every week and special holiday gifts for the festivals, sending gifts to those who were sick, and helping to raise money for and distribute baskets of basic foods to needy families in the Quito Jewish community. The annual Hanukkah Virtual Bazaar took place virtually, with Judaica items and products made by community members sold online.

They continued their work with local charities, delivering candy and toys to local children in December, supporting over 600 children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods around Quito, and supporting local organizations that work with children who are HIV-positive or have Down Syndrome or incurable diseases or are victims of trafficking. As well as money, they distribute used clothing, shoes, toys and other items donated by their members to their partner charities.

UPDATE: You can now make a Donation to ICJW or pay your Dues on our Website using any credit card – simply [click HERE!](#)

HUNGARY

Dr. Katalin Pecci-Pollner, President of [Esther's House Association for Jewish Culture and Feminist Values in Budapest](#), reports on their continuing activities despite the pandemic and periods of lockdown. They continued to hold regular monthly cultural programs for their members, participated in training events and research projects tackling cultural discrimination, and planned several new activities for the coming year.

“Our new cultural program will launch in September 2021 and will be called “FemIntell” (from feminist and intellectual). It will be a kind of “talk show” with great Jewish women, mostly dealing with humanities, literature and arts, who are outstanding in their fields. The program has been welcomed by the [JCC-Bálint House](#), our partner for many years, who will provide us with technical assistance and promotion.

We resumed our cooperation with NDI ([National Democratic Institute](#)), attending two online training events led by international trainers. We dealt with issues like how to reach the media in an effective way, and how to take action against discrimination against ethnic and religious minority groups. Both of the events were very useful for us and helped us to meet and to cooperate with representatives of Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Roma groups.

Esther's House is also participating in the NDI's new research project around the issue of Hate Speech, in partnership with another Jewish organization (Sim Shalom), a Roma group and a Muslim group. Our main activity is monitoring the Hungarian media and social media, where antisemitic and anti-Roma contents can occur. Even the method which we have worked out for doing this is very important for us.

We have started to organize our next Esther's House Conference for Fall 2021, which we hope will be attended by a wide Jewish audience. The topic will be “How to Protect our Diversities”. Hopefully we will be able to hold it in person or in a hybrid way (combining in-person attendance and online screening for those who cannot to take part personally).”

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

MEXICO

These reports from two Mexican Jewish women’s organizations represent a small example of the work being carried out by our affiliate organizations across the country.

Alicia from [Voluntarias Judeo Mexicanas](#) explains that they only stopped their work for a few months at the start of the pandemic, but since then they have been meeting on Zoom.

“The pandemic period was hard but thank God we were able to redirect our efforts and help people in other ways. For example, we were able to help some hospitals by sending them medical supplies. These were hospitals that were in a very bad situation even before COVID, which made it worse.

“We were contacted by someone in a very small and distant Jewish community called Ocotlán Jalisco who helps a group of young people who did not have any way to take classes online, so we helped them by providing a tablet device for each student, and also sent them coats because the climate where they live is very challenging.

“By promoting our activities on social media using Instagram and [Facebook](#), the VJM received a donation that helped us to fund a prosthetic eye for a child in the Mexican children’s hospital. This was very emotional and satisfying achievement.”



*Jewish teens in Ocotlán Jalisco
with tablets and coats from the VJM*

One of the 26 organizations within the [Federación Femenina de la Comunidad Judía](#), ICJW’s other affiliate in Mexico, is [Froien Farein](#), the Israelite Ladies Charity Committee. Established over 90 years ago, their main concern has been to aid elderly women, young women and unprotected children who have economic needs. They have 15 active volunteers who help community members in need of housing, food, medicine, occupational therapy and job opportunities.

Froien Farein President Laurie Gershenson Shapiro explains that in Mexico there is an ever-increasing number of women who need help. One of their main annual activities is making shower gift parties for low-income brides, and they also send Pesach food every year to elderly women to make them feel loved and protected. They also support other institutions that don’t belong to the Jewish community. For example, during the pandemic they have delivered food to the families of sick people hospitalized in the Tultitlan Hospital, and donated clothes to women who have fled their homes because of domestic violence and abuse.

For more than 10 years they have been caring for a 20-year-old woman with a severe medical condition whose mother and a grandmother abused her and made her live in terrible conditions. Froien Farein also assists brilliant teenagers who cannot continue their studies for different reasons. We help them with scholarships and Universities so they can make their dreams come true and finish a career.

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

SLOVAKIA

Marta Gyoriová, President of [Association ESTER](#) and vice-president of ICJW in Slovakia, reports on the activities of Association ESTER during the pandemic.

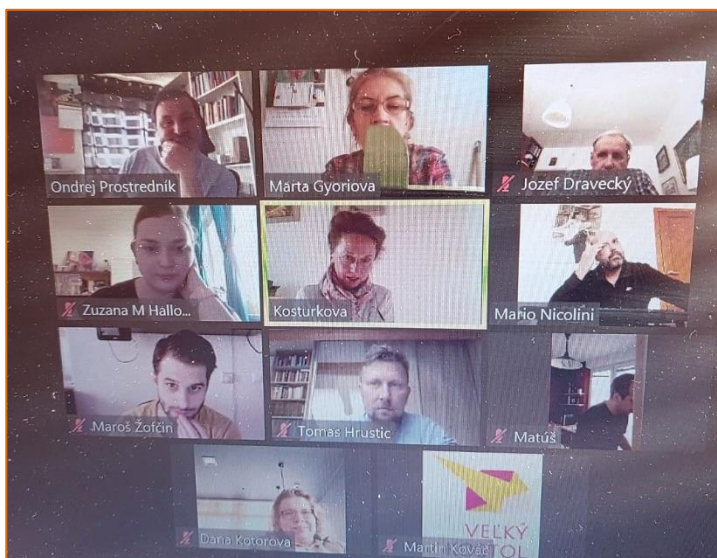
“Like everyone, we had to cancel our planned activities, like the concert in Košice Synagogue commemorating the anniversary of the 1944 transports to concentration camps, meetings between Holocaust survivors and students, commemorative meetings in Poprade, our evening of Jewish Culture, and our regular meetings. Instead, we ran activities online. We helped with the vaccination of the Jewish community against COVID-19 and all our members were fully vaccinated by March 2021.

“The Executive of Association ESTER stayed in phone contact with members, particularly those living alone. We sent Jewish magazines to one of our members who has lived in a nursing home for over 10 years, and we stay informed about her health and welfare.

“We have participated in online workshops organized by the Central Union of Jewish Communities of Slovakia, which were focused on the Jewish holidays and included baking traditional foods. Some of our members participate in online Torah lectures by Rabbi Zev Stiefel where we can obtain not only new knowledge but also discuss various problems in Judaism.

“In cooperation with the Jewish community of Košice, we are completing a long-term project to place name tags of our ancestors on the seats in the synagogue in Pushkin Street, to memorialize them. We are also helping to raise money for the reconstruction of the Mikveh in Košice.

“We are co-organizers of an important two-year-long project of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, bringing together representatives of different faiths and contributing to innovative educational modules for secondary schools focused on this dialogue, to make changes to the civil culture of young people in Slovakia.”



Project team meeting on Zoom on April 28, 2021



Marta Gyoriová with Peter Absolon, Chair of the Košice Jewish Community, inspecting the seats in the synagogue.

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

SWITZERLAND

Irene Scheiner and Mirjam Cahn from the [Swiss Union of Jewish Women's Organizations](#) describe how the Union has represented Swiss women and their interests politically on a national and international level, as well as supporting their affiliates personally, via Zoom and phone.

"On February 7, 2021, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Swiss women's suffrage by organizing a meeting of the presidents and board members of all our affiliates. We had a lively exchange of good ideas. Our members presented their organizations and reported their projects during these difficult times. It was remarkable how much effort and energy our members put into all their work: delivery of food, running errands, providing mental health support, financial help, and many other tasks.



"Together with two important non-Jewish women's organizations we have prepared a media release to campaign against the "Face Covering Initiative". Unfortunately, the initiative was accepted by the Swiss people in a popular vote, but at least we tried.

"In March we had the chance to meet with the new President of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, Dr. Ralph Lewin and the General Secretary Dr. J. Kreutner. We discussed how to increase our cooperation on a political level on issues such as antisemitism and women issues in the future."

URUGUAY

Monica Rozenbaum from the [Council of Jewish Women in Uruguay](#) reports that their two groups of volunteers meet on Zoom in order to continue with their activities.

"We provide two public schools in Montevideo with books, toys and clothing for children and other items as requested, and they also help the Children's Hospital and the largest public hospital in Uruguay.

"Our younger group, [Dor HemShej](#), began working in a network with different local organizations both within and outside the Jewish community, in order to promote and expand their work. One of these projects was with the [Fundación Escuelas Vinculadas](#), which sponsors nine public schools in Uruguay that bear the name Israel or names of Jewish personalities. During the pandemic, one of these schools requested our help to provide snacks for the children, so both groups, together with a local Jewish school, supplied them with homemade cakes and cookies.

"Another of our projects was working together with [Julio Rosenblatt](#), who is the nephew of a Holocaust survivor. To honor his uncle, he has written four books for children and adults about his experiences during the Shoah, and he holds meetings to read his stories to children and answer their questions.

"This year, we made a donation to another local NGO, [Mimochi](#) created by a group of Jewish mothers. At the beginning of every school year, they collect backpacks and school supplies for distribution in different public schools.

"For the last two years we have also continued working on our knitting project "Shelter with Love". Our members knit 200 scarves each year for donation to the Children's Hospital, soup kitchen diners, the Jewish Home for the Elderly, and to homeless people."

Pandemic News from Around the Globe

UNITED KINGDOM

Yvonne Brent from the [League of Jewish Women](#) describes the UK affiliate's activities during the COVID pandemic.

"The lockdown in London started on the 23rd March, 2020, and it was felt important that we would need to do something to ensure our members stayed involved. As with everyone else, our volunteering was brought to an abrupt halt but we needed our members to stay committed, so very quickly we became involved with the National Health Service, providing them with limitless knitted items such as hats, blankets and canula covers for premature babies. Mask extenders were knitted in the hundreds and sent to hospitals for nurses and doctors to help ease the wearing of masks, which they needed to wear for many hours at a time. As these could only be used once before disposal, it was an on-going project. Of course, our knitted "Twiddlemuffs" and blankets for dementia patients were still in demand.

"From day one, a newsletter was sent out weekly giving advice and encouraging telephone buddies for ourselves and other organisations. Zoom came into its own. Members who had not wanted to engage with modern technology, became experts at setting up Zoom 'tea-time' and Bridge sessions with family and friends and the League began arranging monthly group meetings and seminars on Zoom.

"We began to notice that every week, members would suggest books they had enjoyed and wanted to share, so In October 2020 the League Book Club was set up. This has gone from strength to strength with around twenty regular members. We have just held our first Literary Zoom event with Amanda Weinberg discussing her book "*The Tears of Monterini*", set in Tuscany before WW2.

"In November 2020, the North West Region members held their annual coffee morning over Zoom. Their speaker, The Rev Hugh Bearn who is one of Her Majesty the Queen's Chaplains, spoke about Remembrance. For Human Rights Day in December 2020, Jonny Daniels, founder of [From the Depths](#), an International Foundation working in the field of Holocaust memory and memorial spoke about "*How remembering the Holocaust is a Human Rights imperative*".

"In March 2021, for International Women's Day, our speaker was a UK Member of Parliament, Margaret Hodge, who has held her position since 1994. We are now arranging a Seminar in June, organised by our Health Matters committee, with Dr Warner, a consultant psychiatrist specialising in older adult's mental health, entitled "*Dementia, what it is and how to prevent it*".

"Several groups now hold their month meetings on Zoom and encourage members from other groups to join them. They either invite speakers or have meetings just to chat as we are all missing seeing each other and are all looking forward to meeting up in person.

"Due to the age of our members, most of us have received two vaccines with the prospect of a booster later in the year. At this time, there is very little physical volunteering that we can do but we are hoping that, once this pandemic is under control, we will be able to resume our activities, but only time will tell."

The Case of Sarah Halimi

FRANCE

Dr. Sarah Halimi was a retired French Jewish physician and schoolteacher who was attacked and thrown from her third-floor apartment window by her neighbour Kobili Traoré in April 2017. The circumstances surrounding the killing—including the fact that Halimi was the only Jewish resident in her building, and that



the assailant shouted "Allahu akbar" during the attack and afterward proclaimed "I killed the Satan", cemented the public perception of the incident, particularly among the French Jewish community, as a stark example of antisemitism in modern France.

For several months the government and some of the media hesitated to label the killing as antisemitic, drawing criticism from public figures such as Bernard-Henri Lévy. The government eventually acknowledged an antisemitic motivation for the killing.

The assailant was declared to be not criminally responsible when the judges ruled he was undergoing a psychotic episode due to cannabis consumption, as established by an independent psychiatric analysis. The decision was appealed in the French Supreme Court of Cassation, who in 2021 upheld the lower court's ruling.

A joint response was sent and posted on Facebook by ICJW France and the [Coopération Féminine](#):

"ICJW France and the Coopération Féminine are scandalised and horrified by the decision of the Cour de Cassation (Supreme court of appeal) confirming the irresponsibility of the murderer of Sarah Halimi. This murderer under the hold of drugs, however, did not forget to insult her as «dirty Jew », while torturing and then killing his victim.

With this verdict, the Cour de Cassation, the highest judicial authority, gives proof of itself being irresponsible. Every future murderer can base his defence on this iniquitous and scandalous verdict that when one takes drugs, one is not responsible for one's actions and cannot be judged in court!

The International Council of Jewish Women France and the Coopération Féminine associate themselves with the sorrow and the deception of the family of Sarah Halimi z.l. and assure them of our solidarity."

CZECH REPUBLIC

Book Launch in Prague



On May 30, ICJW Czech Republic, our affiliate in Prague hosted their first post-Corona book launch event with author Petr Vizina and Holocaust Survivor Lydia Tischler (pictured above) for the book about her life: "With a Yellow Star in an Empty Coupe".

AUSTRALIA

Mum for Mum

Nadene Alhadeff, Executive Director of [NCJWA Australia](#) NSW Section's Mum for Mum program, explains how they have been in a unique position to provide profound and much needed mental health support during the pandemic.

The Mum for Mum program supports families transitioning to parenthood. We arrange for trained volunteers who are mothers themselves to visit a mum in the last trimester of pregnancy and for the first year of their baby's life, in order to provide emotional support.

We are one of the few organisations doing home visiting and expanding rapidly during the pandemic. Just yesterday, our intake was a mum-to-be who lost both parents who live overseas to Covid-19. Her family overseas are so grateful she will have a 'Mum For Mum' volunteer to emotionally support her when she has her baby, as none of them can travel here to help her. In the last year alone, 250 new mothers received weekly home visits from our 160 volunteers. This was a 50% increase during Covid.

Becoming a parent has been particularly challenging during the pandemic. Unable to have family visiting from elsewhere and increased health concerns for the baby and family has added considerably to the familiar stresses of motherhood.

The challenges of keeping a baby "quiet" while partners worked from home and concerns of financial and job security, have all added to the mental health and relationship challenges to new parents. Having a trusted empathic volunteer to regularly discuss concerns and to problem solve, to delight in the baby and relieve isolation has been described as "a life-saver". The support of a consistent, well trained, nonjudgmental volunteer who is a mother herself ensures that these mothers don't fall through the cracks and the baby has the best chance in life. Requests for the program have become so popular that we cannot keep up with the demand.

Our dream is that wherever there is a mother who can benefit from the program, we will have a trained volunteer ready to support her, helping her find her unique voice and be the best mother she can be.



Mum for Mum hosted a Mother's Day mothers group in April 2021 at NCJWA Council House, with over 90 mothers, volunteers and babies, whose ages ranged from 4 weeks to 70 years. Our intentions were to nurture our mums coming up to Mother's Day. This was our largest group of mothers ever, and the first since Covid, and the joy amongst mums and volunteers was tangible.

CANADA

What You Do as a Mother Matters

Rochelle Garfinkel from the [National Council of Jewish Women of Canada](#) in Vancouver explains why mothers matter.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re famous, it doesn’t matter if you’re obscure. What you do as a mother, matters. NCJW-Vancouver knows how much mothers matter. NCJW Canada continues to be a trailblazer, an advocate, and a constant pillar of support for women and children, for over 97 years.

The NCJWC-Vancouver universe is full of shining lights, women who are committed to their communities and serve as models for their unique role in leading social change. These stars include Carol Slater, who was honoured recently as a Trailblazer by the [Mothers Matter Centre](#). She and the Kort sisters—Alisa, Beverley and Suzanne—are passionate about the program

Carol Slater knew, when she first heard about [HIPPY \(Israel’s Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters\)](#) from reports from Israel and the USA, that she had to bring it to Vancouver. The program works in the home with vulnerable and isolated mothers. Carol knew that mothers are the first and most important teachers of the child and that the program would provide the essential tools and skills for them.



In 2000, she convinced [NCJWC-Vancouver](#) to initiate a project, partnering with Simon Fraser University, an institute that trains educators with academic rigor, and the Britannia Community Centre, known for its vibrant presence in the heart of immigrant Vancouver. Now, twenty years later, on May 5, 2021, Carol Slater will be recognized as a Trailblazer by the Mothers Matter Centre, which now delivers the HIPPY program on a national level.

Of critical importance to Vancouver’s Council Section are the Kort sisters—Beverly, Alisa and Suzanne—who have followed the philanthropic path of their mother of blessed memory, Shirley Kort, z’l. These shining stars have made a 5-year scholarship commitment enabling qualified mothers (who are part of the Mothers Matter Program) to complete academic and professional qualifications. Azeema, one of the seven recipients of the scholarship, said: “It paid for my two courses; it was a great financial help. It was above and beyond my expectations and I am very thankful. The Kort Family Fund joined hands with an immigrant, to take steps, and for them to help out. I am a step closer to my goal. I did not have to worry about finances this semester.”

[HIPPY \(now the Mothers Matter Centre\)](#) is a demonstration of Margaret Mead’s eloquent observation: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.

The Online UN Commission on the Status of Women

The 2021 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women events took place online from March 15 – 26, 2021, and many ICJW members around the world participated.

The theme of the 65th Commission was “**Women’s Full and Effective Participation and Decision-Making in Public Life**”, as well as the Elimination of Violence, for Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls.

ICJW’s UN representatives are active year-round in the [NGO Committee on the Status of Women \(NGO CSW/NY\)](#), and every year they organize the civil society side of the UN CSW event. The CSW NGO Forum runs parallel events to those occurring within the United Nations Headquarters, providing international civil society with the opportunity to engage in the processes and events of CSW. Between March 15 -26, they organized more than 600 virtual events to inform, engage and inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy that empower women and girls.



ICJW’s Partner Events at CSW65

Every year, ICJW co-sponsors one or more side events, together with other women’s NGOs and national delegations. We have developed strong partnerships with many international women’s organizations over the years and hosted some excellent events. The following side events were co-sponsored by ICJW in 2021:

1. “A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION SKILLS WORKSHOP: “WOMEN...SPEAK UP!!”

[Click here to download the flyer for this event](#) and [click here to watch the recording of the event](#)

2. “WE HAVE YOUR BACK: BREAKING THE CYCLE: FROM ONLINE HARASSMENT TO THREATS TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRL LEADERS”

Watch the presentation at www.haveyourback.org

UN CSW65 - What Was Achieved?

[Click here to read a personal account of this year’s event](#) by Sara Winkowski, ICJW Past President and Representative at the UN in New York.



Click here to follow ICJW on
[Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) @ICJWWomen



ICJW's Online Webinars



 Hadassah Nakisa Uganda	 Alicia Amiga Mexico	 Alina Bricman EU	 Judy Mintz US	 Joan Lurie US	 Carole Tolkin US
 Karoline Schnaider Sweden	 Joanna Nahmia Greece	 Aleksandra Jach Poland	 Fran Butensky US	 Sara Winkowski US	 Madeleine Brecher US


ICJW's Webinar Women
 Find us on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

The Covid-19 global pandemic abruptly upended our lives last year and the ICJW had to think and adapt quickly. But we found solutions to continue our work, keeping up with our agenda. Most of all, we kept the organization together.

After having successfully completed our first executive meeting over the internet, we overcame our anxiety about using online meetings. We met our challenges with a technological triumph and many members attended successfully.

Now, a year and a half later, Zoom has proved to be remarkably easy to use. The ICJW webinars motivated, inspired and helped us to learn more about our projects, our younger representatives and to stay better connected. I can say that the ICJW webinars are here to stay.

We now have 4 recorded webinars on our [ICJW YouTube page](#) for you to watch and share with your community. The "Bridging the Gap" webinar presented projects and introduced the younger leadership of the organization from around the world. Part I was entitled "Hear the Young Voices of ICJW" and part II was "The Voices of Women Leaders".

The New York UN Team webinar brought us their 20 plus years of dedication and advocacy, as well as their wonderful personal stories. This was the first live webinar to get to know the team and our intention is to also introduce the Geneva UN Team. The first ICJW webinar, and the most viewed, was "The Path to Peace Begins in the Classroom" with Dr. Joan Lurie, focusing on reforming the education of Palestinian children, a most relevant topic to promote peace.

Getting back to normal will probably be a slow process, but it is also important to remember that what is "normal" changes over time, even without pandemics. Social and digital media are sure to remain important for the foreseeable future of ICJW, but they will never replace face-to-face interaction.

Lilian Bosboom
Chair of Communication & PR

Herczeg Jerusalem Seminar for Jewish Education

The [Council of Women's Organizations in Israel](#) is planning the 2021 ICJW Jerusalem Education Seminar from 14 - 17 November, 2021, in Jerusalem. They hope that the successful international vaccination campaign and the relaxation of travel restrictions will allow women from around the world to attend. However, recognizing that this may not be possible for everyone, they will run a "hybrid" Seminar – meeting in Jerusalem, broadcasting the sessions live on Zoom, and sharing the recordings for watching later.

The theme of the Seminar will be: **"Resilience and Opportunities – The Challenge for Feminine Leadership in an Uncertain Era"**. The Seminar Planning Committee has worked throughout the pandemic to put together an exciting program. The sessions will address issues of relevance to Jewish communities around the world, with a diverse program of excellent speakers, panel discussions, informative tours, and enjoyable social events. The topics will include feminine leadership, resilience in an age of uncertainty, Jewish identity, antisemitism, and useful skills for leadership.

The Herczeg Jerusalem Seminar for Jewish Education was endowed by Rosita & Esteban de Herczeg and is held every four years in Israel. Its objectives are to advance Jewish education and strengthen Jewish identity among the leadership and membership of ICJW's affiliates, provide tools for Jewish leadership in their communities, and deepen connections between affiliates. The Seminar is an exciting joint learning experience and an opportunity for Jewish women from around the world to meet and share ideas, while exploring educational and social enterprises in Israel. It will be an empowering and worthwhile experience that will inspire the activities of all our affiliates and encourage more women to get involved.

Plans for November

The seminar will start on Sunday evening, 14 November, and end on Wednesday evening, 17 November. The ICJW Executive Meeting will be held on Thursday, 18 November at the same location. We will stay in a mid-priced hotel in central Jerusalem and there will be opportunities for participants to extend their stay. Spouses and families may want to take advantage of the opportunity to tour Israel.

Please save the date and share this information with your members and friends.

To receive more information, please send an email to seminar@icjw.org.

The deadline for registration for the Seminar will be September 12.

FORTHCOMING ICJW EVENTS

November 14 – 17, 2021	Herczeg Jerusalem Seminar, Israel
November 18, 2021	ICJW Executive Meeting, Jerusalem
May, 2022	ICJW Quadrennial Convention, Mexico

