



ACWW wereldconferentie 2016

In augustus vindt de 28e “Associated Country Women of the World Triennial Conference” plaats in Warwick, Groot Brittannië.

De ACWW verbindt wereldwijd 420 vrouwenorganisaties, die actief zijn in landelijke en stedelijke gebieden. Zo’n 9.000.000 vrouwen in 73 landen vormen de achterban. De ACWW heeft sinds 1946 een consultatieve status bij de Verenigde Naties en sinds 1948 bij UNESCO.

De driejaarlijks terugkerende wereldconferentie is met recht de belangrijkste gebeurtenis op de ACWW kalender. Het biedt leden de mogelijkheid hun vertegenwoordigers te kiezen, te stemmen op resoluties en aanbevelingen en verder mede te bepalen hoe de komende drie jaren de werkzaamheden van ACWW wereldwijd zullen worden uitgevoerd.

In Nederland zijn vier landelijke vrouwenorganisaties aangesloten bij de ACWW: Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK, Passage christelijk-maatschappelijke vrouwenbeweging, Vrouwen van Nu en Zij Actief. Samen hebben zij een werkgroep opgericht, waar regelmatig informatie over actuele ACWW zaken wordt uitgewisseld en ACWW conferenties worden voorbereid.

Thema van de komende Triennial is: “Working together for a better future”. De te behandelen resoluties hebben betrekking op onder meer de volgende onderwerpen: “Voedselsoevereiniteit”, “Fructose” (ingediend door Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK), “Duurzame energie”, “Schaliegas”, “Bescherming van watervoorraden”, “Vaccinatie tegen potentieel uit te roeien ziektes”, “Burgermaatschappij & gender” (ingediend door Vrouwen van Nu). Ook moeten ACWW’s statuten worden aangepast aan de wettelijk geldende regelgeving van Engeland. Hiernaast kan er gestemd worden op een aantal aanbevelingen: “Illegale kinderen aan de landsgrenzen”, “De huidige vluchtelingen crisis”, “Regulering van de goudwinning.” Deze laatste is ingediend door Passage, christelijk-maatschappelijke vrouwenbeweging”.

Zoals u ziet heeft de ACWW werkgroep Nederland niet stilgezeten: twee van de ingediende resoluties komen uit Nederland en dat geldt ook voor een van de drie aanbevelingen.

Hieronder volgen de volledige teksten van de door de Nederlandse vrouwenorganisaties ingediende resoluties en aanbeveling.

FRUCTOSE

(door Koninklijk NVVH-VROUWENNETWERK)

Be it resolved that the ACWW and its member organisations strongly urge

their governments to ban food and drink manufacturers from claiming their sweetened products are healthier if they use fructose as sweetener.

Supporting statement: *Worldwide obesity is becoming a serious health problem. On advice from the European Food Safety Authority (Esfa) taking effect as of 2014, the EU has ruled that food and drink manufacturers can claim their sweetened products are healthier, if they replace more than 30% of the glucose and sucrose they contain with fructose. Fructose has a lower glycaemic index (GI), meaning fructose does not cause as high and rapid a blood sugar spike as sucrose or glucose.*

However, being isocaloric i.s.o. isometabolic like other sweeteners, fructose is metabolized differently from other sugars. Fructose goes straight to the liver and unprocessed excess is stored there as fat, building up deposits that may cause life-threatening diseases. While refined fructose creates a lower glycaemic response in the short term, compared to other sugars, in the long term it causes greater metabolic havoc than sugar, as has been repeatedly demonstrated in scientific studies.

Even the EU Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies, while still agreeing with the health claim for fructose, notes in their Opinion paper 7 that “high intakes of fructose may lead to metabolic complications such as dyslipidaemia, insulin resistance and increased visceral adiposity”.)

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GENDER

(door Vrouwen van Nu)

Be it resolved that member societies of ACWW strongly urge their governments to integrate a gender-perspective in their policies to create an enabling environment for economic and social development especially in rural areas.

Supporting statement: *The worldwide need for food production, the eradication of poverty, and the urge for sustainability needs strong citizens of all ages. The whole series of budget cuts in the EU-countries for example are disproportionately affecting women through job losses and reductions in public services. There is evidence of rising precarious working conditions, increasing discrimination in the labour market with subsequent shift to informal work, rising levels of poverty, reduced access to services, and rising levels of domestic violence, accompanied by cuts in vital support services. Solutions are needed which are built on the positive effects of gender equality on well-being, employment en people-centred sustainable growth.*

Food, care and health are in the hearts of women. Working in these fields contribute to the development of life-standards and to the eradication of poverty. Investing in sustainability is a chance to restore the gender balance and using the knowledge of the region of both men and women.

An equal relation between civil society, the government and private sector is essential. Women’s organizations, as part of that civil society, play a role in empowering women through their network and programs at local, regional or national level. The main

goals for women are: encouragement in decision making and participation, learning by doing, learning together, strengthening personal development and competences, such as entrepreneurship. Stimulation of knowledge sharing and strengthening civil society, such as women's organizations, is effective for the livability (survival expectancy) and continuation of projects in local communities.

REGULATION OF THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

(door Passage, christelijk-maatschappelijke vrouwenbeweging)

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations strongly urge their governments to regulate the gold mining industry.

Supporting statement: *The gold industry is one of the top 5 largest industries in the world. Gold is a precious possession, but the gold mining has major consequences for the environment.*

Extraction of gold causes the following problems

- *Loss of vegetation*
- *Pulling away of fauna*
- *Loss of water and flora/ fauna*
- *Negative social effects varying from disturbance till pushing aside of traditional and local societies*
- *Environmental disasters*
- *Loss of health of people and animals*

It is neither easy to find gold nor winning the ore, as gold coheres with other minerals. One method is grinding the extracted ore several times, making gold digging very expensive. It is cheaper to use the poisonous cyanide and mercury to dissolve the gold. 85-90% of the gold is extracted via large-scale mining with the toxic cyanide. Cyanide, being used to exploit the gold. Mercury to separate gold from the mud.

Mercury is not only a danger to fish as food source, but also for sensitive ecosystems and animal populations, such as fish-eating birds and mammals in the tropical rainforest. The most important effects of mercury on the health of people are disturbance of the brain functions. Damaged brain functions may cause degradation of learning capacity, deafness, memory loss, Down syndrome and allergic reactions resulting in rashes, fatigue headaches and so on. Sometimes children have 33 times more mercury in their body than the internationally accepted safety standard. Often there is no thorough legislation. As a result (foreign) companies are unlimitedly left to their own devices, putting up roads deep into the jungle, even through nature reservations, "gobbling up" jungle villages. Thus in many places turning the jungle into bald excavated craters and toxic lunar landscapes. This 24/7 industry causes not only day and night noise pollution for the local population and the fauna, it also poisons the rivers making it unfit for human (and animal) use and consumption any longer. Also sand and gravel accumulate in the river, silting up fairways.

Foreign companies start a mine and force the people who live on that spot to move. Gold mining workers see little back from the real value of their gold.

Gold mining causes great damage to people and the environment. Regulation of the gold sector is therefore necessary.



Meer informatie over ACWW en de Triennial op www.acww.org.uk