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## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to women from liberal faith communities throughout the world, who seek to share their ideas, their experiences and their concerns, offering support to each other in the search for spiritual enrichment and identity. The IALRW represents such diverse religious tradition; as Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Unitarians, Unitarian-Universalists, and the liberal members of other faith groups. The Association has members and contacts in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America.

## ACTIVITIES

### Newsletter

An annual newsletter reports on the activities of members in their different countries, and voices opinion on current issues and questions of concern to religious women.

### Social Action & Research

IALRW funds a literacy service project for women in India: one with the Mahabodi Society in Leh, Ladakh, offering training in literacy and vocational skills to enable disadvantaged women to become self-sufficient. Grants have been given to women in Mostar, Bosnia, Child Haven International, and a development and educational initiative with women in Afghanistan. IALRW endeavors to do research on peace-building methods and rights-based approaches to development activities.

### Interfaith Co-operation

As a member group of the International Association for Religious Freedom, the IALRW participates fully in its activities and promotes consideration of women's issues

## THE STORY SO FAR . . .

IALRW is one of the oldest international women's organizations in the world. It was convened in Berlin in 1910 by a group of women attending a conference of the International Council of Unitarian and other Liberal Religious Thinkers and Workers. Three years later, in Paris, it was finally organized as the International Union of Liberal Christian Women.

The two world wars interrupted activities, but members maintained contact and worked with prisoners and refugees, keeping families in touch across enemy lines.

Conferences and other activities resumed after the wars and have continued ever since. Since adoption of the present name in 1975, the International Association of Liberal Religious Women has reached out to women of many faiths, and welcomes all who strive for a liberal religious life.

## PAST PRESIDENTS

1910 – 1913: Helen Brooke, Great Britain  
1913 – 1947: Martha Everett, U.S.A.  
1947 – 1957: Nicolette A. Bruining, The Netherlands  
1957 – 1968: Cornelia Boer, The Netherlands  
1968 – 1978: Carolyn C. Howlett, U.S.A.  
1978 – 1981: Jutta Reigh, FR Germany  
1981 – 1987: Jane Lauriat, U.S.A.  
1987 – 1990: Nelly de Rooy-Janse, The Netherlands  
1990 – 1993: Gladys N. McNatt, U.S.A.  
1993 – 1999: Christine Hayhurst, Great Britain  
1999 – 2002: Kayoko Yokota, Japan  
2002 – 2006: Johanna Boeke, U.K.  
2006 – 2014 Kathy R. Matsui, Japan

## CONFERENCES

The Association holds an international conference every four years, and national and regional conferences in intervening years, on issues relevant to women of today.

## CONFERENCE THEMES:

### 2014 - Birmingham, UK

Raising Our Voices for Change toward a Sustainable World

2010– Kochi, Kerala, India

**Women in Action:**-May there be peace in our minds and hearts - Family Community Country World

2002 – Budapest, Hungary

Women's Role in the 21st Century: Our Families / Communities / Countries/ the World

1999 – Vancouver, Canada

New Patterns for the Next Millennium: Women with Roots, Wisdom, Wings

1996 – Iksan City, South Korea

Culture and Religion: Their Influence on Women

1993 – Bangalore, India

Nurturing the Earth

1990 – Goslar, Germany

Building Bridges through Sharing

1987 – Palo Alto, California, USA

Time and Space Together

1984 – Oiso, Japan

The Cultural and Spiritual Roots of Our Lives – East and West

## WOMEN OF THE WORLD

The IALRW promotes the inclusion of women's roles in religion on the agenda of special events in the UN calendar and other national and international gatherings.

**For further information:**

**<http://www.IALRW.org>**