

The IAW meets the TIAW on-line.

As the TIAW announced its programme for Daughters, the page website appeared with the name of the International Alliance of Women rather than the TIAW's actual name The International Alliance for Women. Normally computers would catch the difference of "for" and "of" but search engines are much more willing to rearrange letters to accommodate the user and suddenly we are confronted with an interchangeability of names for two separate organizations with similar goals but different modes of operation. Each organisation arrived at its name through evolution. The IAW began in 1904 as the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA). At the Congress of 1926 in Paris the name was changed to International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship (IAW) and in 1946 the present name, International Alliance of Women Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities was adopted. Under this name the IAW has been accredited with ECOSOC since 1947 and began its web presence under womenalliance.com (now womenalliance.org) in 2000.

"TIAW started in 1980 as The National Alliance, a U.S.-based umbrella organization of women's networks. Its purpose was to share information, provide educational programs and conduct meetings and forums to benefit women. In 1986, the organization changed its name to The International Alliance of Professional and Executive Women (TIA) as it broadened its outlook beyond the United States. In 2002, the organization further modified its name to The International Alliance For Women (TIAW). It felt that the definition of professional and executive women was too narrow and excluded many of the women that the organization wanted to include. It deliberately used the word "for" women to enable the organization to further its inclusive approach and to emphasize that the goal was to empower women rather than just facilitating networking among women." (Stephanie MacKendrick, President, The International Alliance for Women (TIAW))

The Board of the IAW, which had carried the name in the struggle for equality for women much longer than the TIAW, was unhappy with this development and contacted the younger organisation to discuss ways in which the confusion could be mitigated. A comparison of our websites shows the difference in thrust and membership of the two, so, barring a return of the TIAW to the name it had used prior to 2002, which would make it as different from our name as the name of the International Alliance of Women in Music (IAWM, incorporated in 1994) now is, an placement of website links, directing surfers to the alternative organisation was agreed upon. A further result of a conference call on this issue was the offer by the IAW, with its general ECOSOC accreditation, to have an open ear for the issues of the TIAW and carry them, in so far as they agree with the points of the IAW constitution and Action Programme, into the international arena in which the IAW has moved for so many decades.

Discussions and exchanges are on-going and we each hope for mutual benefit from the cooperation of the two international umbrella organisations.