Women and Chemicals Blog

IPEN has created a space on its website dedicated for women leaders to share their stories and information regarding women and chemicals. The first article "Reflections in Honor of International Women's Day" of this blog was co-written by IPEN women caucus co-chairs: Olga Speranskaya and Pamela Miller. The tradition is being followed by other women leaders and the next article "Together: Working for a Toxics-Free Future in Iraq" was written by Saadiyah F. Hassoon working in Iraq on women's rights and environmental issues.

International Women's Day

IPEN celebrated International Women’s Day by honoring IPEN women. A video message was released, view it here. Throughout the day, IPEN shared messages from women leaders across the network on its social media challenges. It can be viewed here.

Pamela Miller, IPEN co-Chair and Women’s caucus Co-Chair, and Olga Speranskaya, Women’s Caucus Co-Chair and IPEN Senior Advisor shared their reflections to honor all the women all over the world working to protect their children, their families, and communities from harmful exposures to toxic chemicals.

The women caucus also conducted a virtual caucus meeting to share their reflections, and celebrate each other.

Breaking Barriers


In 2022, IPEN published a report titled "Women Leaders: Addressing Chemicals and Waste Issues" as an output of the currently ongoing GEF Project on Global Best Practices on Emerging Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM. The report showcases women leaders’ stories working at different levels to strengthen protections against harmful chemicals. This webinar was organized to learn from these inspiring women and support them in their critical work toward achieving the SDGs. It aimed to provide a platform for women leaders to share their experiences and insights on addressing chemicals and waste issues and to provide practical strategies and tools for women to take action in their communities and organizations. By highlighting the critical role of women in addressing these challenges, we aim to inspire and empower women worldwide to take action for a more sustainable future.

A recording of this session is available here. The presentations can be viewed here.

Women’s Caucus meeting

The Women caucus conducted a face-to-face meeting on May 27 during the Plastics Treaty INC2 negotiations in Paris. Eighteen women from twelve countries participated in the meeting and shared success stories highlighting the role of IPEN women leaders in generating data on toxic chemicals, including in plastic, and their health effects.

The caucus also discussed other significant work led by IPEN women leaders, including pesticides, textiles, rural communities, women’s rights and more. The meeting was concluded with an agreement to prepare a list of priority issues IPEN women leaders and their organizations want to focus on shortly.

If you would like more information about this meeting or want to be added to the Women’s Caucus listserve, you can contact us at ipen@ipen.org. Information regarding the schedule and agenda will be shared on the women’s caucus listserve.

Know more about IPEN at www.ipen.org or contact us at ipen@ipen.org.