

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[View this email in your browser](#)**SDG 5: Gender Equality****Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

IPEN's Gender Initiative was born in 2016.

In 2015, more than 190 world leaders committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to assist all people to empower themselves to work toward achieving the SDGs, one of which is Gender Equality. The SDGs came into effect in January 2016 and will continue to guide the policy and funding of the United Nations Development Programme for the next fifteen years.

IPEN believes that gender equality is fundamental to international human rights to live in a healthy, violence-free environment where there is no allowance for chemical

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IPEN's Gender Initiative aims to enhance the role of women and women's leadership in local, regional, national, and global efforts to reduce exposures to harmful chemicals and wastes. IPEN will continually work to expand the role of women and leadership of women within the network at all levels.

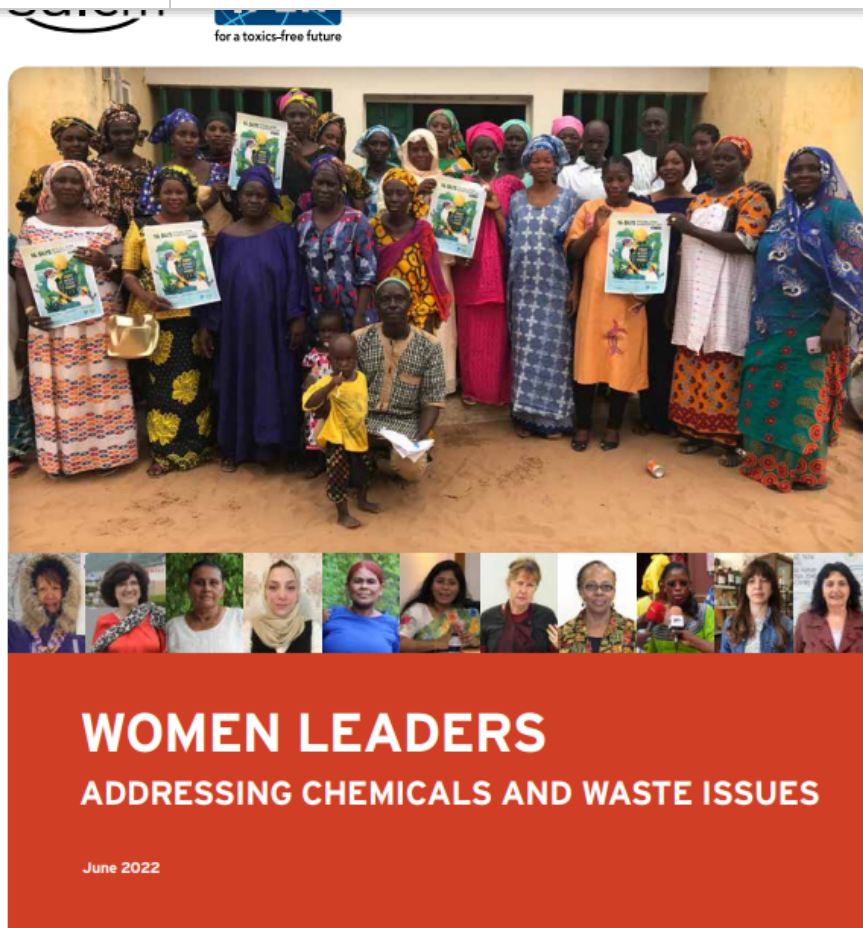
Here are some of the activities that IPEN has conducted.

## RECENT UPDATES



IPEN's Women's caucus met recently during the Plastic Treaty INC 1 in Uruguay and celebrated our women leaders- Siddika Sultana and Gohar Khojayan.

[Read more about our Women's Caucus below.](#)

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People of all gender identities must have the same rights and opportunities to participate fully in their communities, free from the health threats posed by toxic chemicals. These stories highlight women through ten organizations across the globe who are leading work in their communities, nations, and internationally for stronger protections from harmful chemicals.

Read these inspiring stories here: <https://ipen.org/documents/women-leaders-addressing-chemicals-and-waste-issues>.

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Women experts at IPEN worked together and developed a series of informative courses on gender and chemicals. There are nine courses in English and many other languages including Spanish, French and German.

These are available on Teachable and have no fee.

Find them here: <https://ipen.org/women-and-chemicals-courses>



## WOMEN, CHEMICALS AND THE SDGs



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Women are generally more disproportionately impacted by exposure to chemicals and wastes and have less access to participation in decision making. Women are also key agents of change. Women and chemicals is an underexplored topic that deserves more attention.

This report analyses the issues of gender and chemicals and relates them to the SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and Issues of Concern, identifying a range of inequalities.

## IPEN's initiatives on Women and Chemicals



IPEN conducted global studies on women and chemicals and developed multiple reports:

- Mercury Threat to Women & Children Across 3 Oceans: Elevated Mercury in Women in Small Island States & Countries, 2018.

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- Mercury in women of child bearing age in 25 countries, 2017
- Women and chemical safety poster, 2017
- Monitoring mother earth by monitoring mother's milk, 2009
- POPs and women's health, 2006

You can find all of these reports at: <https://ipen.org/toxic-priorities/women-and-chemicals>



In December 2017, IPEN signed a memorandum with the United Nations Environment Programme and entered into a partnership to contribute to the work on Gender and Chemicals, through a focus on women.



IPEN established a women's caucus in 2017 to provide a forum for planning, discussion, and engagement around gender issues. One of the three focus areas identified was to work on gender issues within the IPEN network, including creating opportunities for training and for women to share experiences.

IPEN convened a Women's Caucus Meeting and Policy Skillshare in Geneva, Switzerland followed by the IPEN's preparatory meeting for the Basel-Rotterdam-

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The meeting aimed to:

- Share experiences and skills among IPEN women active in the global, regional and/or local policy arena
- Strengthen IPEN women participating in the BRS COPs, and other policy meetings
- Provide a support structure for women NGO participants, both new and experienced
- Gather input for next steps of the Caucus and a potential strategy for engaging new women in IPEN's policy work

Twenty women attended the meeting, coming from Australia, Benin, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, and Vietnam.



#### IPEN Women's Caucus Roundtable Conversation, 2019

The women caucus meeting was held in Bangkok followed by the regional meetings at SAICM Intersessional process 3.

The meeting discussed:

- Share experiences and skills among IPEN women active in the global, regional and/or local policy arena.
- Strengthen IPEN women participating in the BRS COPs, and other policy