



PREVIEW 2000

No 5. June 2000

An occasional bulletin of the International Women's Tribune Centre to cover plans and preparations for the 5 year review of the United Nations Platform for Action, an agenda for women's empowerment that came out of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995

HOW FAR HAVE WE COME? ASSESSING PROGRESS FIVE YEARS AFTER BEIJING

In 1995 nearly 6,000 official delegates from 189 countries and over 30,000 thousand women gathered in Beijing united in their desire to achieve equality, development and peace for all women. The Fourth World Conference on Women resulted in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (PFA) which were adopted unanimously by government representatives. It constituted a powerful plan for empowering women and achieving gender equality and it built on the agreements reached at the previous World Conferences for Women: The World Plan of Action, Mexico City 1975; A Programme for Action, Copenhagen, 1980; and Forward Looking Strategies, Nairobi, 1985.

The PFA defined a set of strategic objectives and spelled out actions to be taken by national governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to remove obstacles to the advancement of women in twelve critical areas. In addition, Beijing was the first global conference in which women's issues were explicitly linked to human rights- the PFA mentions "rights" approximately 500 times and includes human rights as one of the twelve Critical Areas of Concern. With this new legal authority

women activists left Beijing full of optimism, re-energized and determined to lobby their governments and the international community to make sure the Platform for Action would be implemented quickly and effectively.

Beijing + 5 gives us a chance to assess the work of the last 5 years and has begun an important discussion about the need for targets and indicators to measure what progress has been made. Targets make progress visible and measureable and they allow activists to monitor change -or lack thereof. The majority of existing targets for women's

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HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

progress relate only to health and education - hardly sufficient to examine all areas of women's lives. Using the few measures that we have available to us, what progress have we made?

WHAT DO THE INDICATORS SHOW?

So far, the results are in from more than 100 countries which have responded to a questionnaire requesting information about the implementation of national action plans. Despite a few isolated examples where women's lives have improved, in most cases progress has been slow and in some cases, governments have even moved backwards.

- **Women in only six countries have achieved "equality" using the three composite indicators of gender equality and women's empowerment selected by the UN indicator framework:**

- approximate gender equality in secondary school enrollment;
- at least a 30 percent share of seats for women in parliaments or legislatures; AND
- an approximate share of nearly 50 percent of paid employment in the non-agricultural sector for women.

The national reports, supplemented by other studies also reveal:

- **Women constitute 70 per cent of the world's poor - a situation often referred to as the feminisation of poverty;**

Structural adjustment policies required for World Bank loans and economic globalization affect women more than men. Removing local banks from the decision-making process for the allocation of credit gives big corporations easier access to loans and impedes small businesses (micro-enterprises) from getting loans. These small businesses are often the sites for women's economic participation. Unemployment also affects women more than men. In many countries, when jobs are scarce, women

are the first to be fired - after all, their husbands will support them, right?

Finally, structural adjustment policies have forced governments to reduce spending on social welfare eliminating an important source of support for single mothers with young families and the disabled or elderly. Government cuts have also decreased the level of state-provided health care affecting the availability of reproductive health care and education and maternity care.

- **Women have not significantly increased their participation in power and decision-making.**

In Beijing, governments endorsed the goal that 30% of decision-making positions should be held by women by the year 2000. While twenty-two countries have adopted laws and policies to advance equal participation of women in decision-making, this goal has not been attained.



In fact, it seems that for every step forward, we take one step back. Only in the Nordic countries, where women constitute 50% or more of elected officials, have women achieved any real results. Meanwhile, women's presence in parliaments in the former Soviet Union and E. European countries, which averaged 30% under communism, has fallen drastically during political transition, and is down to 3% in many of the newly independent states.

World-wide, women are just 11.7% of parliamentarians and at the United Nations itself, only 8 of the 180 Ambassadors to the UN are women.

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ASSESSING PROGRESS FIVE YEARS AFTER BEIJING

- ***Women do not share equally in the positive benefits of economic development.***

With economic development has come increased access to free primary and secondary education in the developing world. While the gender gap in the access to primary education has decreased, boys still are more likely to receive a secondary-level education. Moreover, the statistics do not indicate any qualitative difference in the education that girls receive or whether or not they are as likely to complete secondary education. In fact, studies have shown that school drop-out rates are higher for girls when economic conditions worsen. As a result, the majority of countries have seen no increase in female literacy.

- ***Despite the widespread adoption of laws against domestic violence, women continue to fear violence in their homes, in their communities and in conflict zones.***

NGOs have been effective in raising awareness about the prevalence and danger of domestic violence and rape and as a result, many governments have enacted laws designed to protect women. However, because domestic violence is still seen, in many cases, as a "family affair" most of these laws are not enforced. In addition, women's continued economic dependence on men prevents women from seeking the redress they are due.

The past five years have seen increased activism on the part of women all around the world in a number of the Critical Areas of Concern. This activism has raised awareness in a number of areas and in some cases has resulted in government action through the implementation of commitments made in national action plans. Despite increased awareness, women have not seen a significant positive change in their daily lives. The global context contributes to the many setbacks in the status of women, including:

- a global economic crisis and an increasing awareness of the negative impacts of globalization on women and their families;
- the affects of devastating armed conflict worldwide which has resulted in 34 million refugees and internally displaced people, and has ravaged huge areas of the African continent; and,
- reduced financial support from donor nations despite commitments to increase development assistance.

The numbers make it clear that national governments and the international community have failed in their promise to develop significant initiatives to advance the status of women. While there are many other factors, it is also due to a lack of political will. Governments and the international community can do better and perhaps the UN Special Session will set us all on a new path forward.

All facts and figures taken from the following sources:

- 1) Instituto del Tercer Mundo, *Social Watch*, No 4, 2000, Roberto Bissio, Yao Graham, Gina Vargas and Caroline Wildeman, eds.
- 2) UNIFEM, *Targets and Indicators: Selections from Progress of the World's Women*, 2000
- 3) Women's Environment and Development Organization, *Mapping Progress: A WEDO Report Assessing Implementation of the Beijing Platform*, "Key Findings" available online at: <<http://www.wedo.org/monitor/findings.htm>>.



CAUCUSES:

INTRODUCTION:

NGOs have found that caucuses are one of the most useful organizational processes to use to bring their perspectives to the attention of government delegates in a coherent manner and with the collective force of numerous, diverse organizations. During the March 2000 Prepcom for B+5, NGOs met in both regional and issues caucuses to discuss government deliberations, monitor debates, identify strategic interventions and to propose new language for the Outcomes document as appropriate.

By the opening of the Special Session on 5 June, all text for the Outcomes Document should be completed, and the role of caucuses will differ significantly since the time for influencing the wording of the document will have passed. Since the March PrepCom, many caucus groups have continued to monitor the negotiations of the Intersessionals and the Resumed PrepCom both in person and on-line. In many instances, caucuses plan to meet occasionally during the Special Session and almost all are planning to host panels or forums.

Check the Special Session daily newspaper for a schedule of caucus meetings and related panels and workshops. The following information, provided by caucus convenors, highlights lobbying priorities and planned activities during the UN Special Session.

POVERTY: This caucus serves as a meeting space for grassroots activists working for the elimination of poverty and as advocates for the poor. It continues through the GROOTS International list-serve. Contact: Jan Peterson, One Sherman Square #27L, New York, New York, USA 10023; Fax #: 1-212-799-5161.

Special Session: No planned action.

EDUCATION: This caucus recognized education as a human right and identified specific concerns as: 1) the development of gender sensitive curriculum; 2) distance learning; 3) adult education; 4) access

to higher education; 5) education about HIV, malaria and other preventable diseases; 6) the distribution of information technology; 7) academic freedom; 8) education for citizenship; and 9) special mental health and educational programs for children and women disabled during armed conflicts. The caucus welcomed the statement of the youth caucus as well as its recognition of the importance of intergenerational relationships.

Special Session: Meetings to discuss monitoring and follow-up activities.

HEALTH: This caucus attracted a diverse membership, particularly fundamentalists who targeted these meetings and whose disruptions made progress difficult. Nevertheless, the caucus called upon governments to provide adequate health services to women and girls and specifically, to ensure: 1) that women have access to health services, including safe abortions; 2) that education is used to promote women's understanding of their health needs; 3) that health care providers understand these needs, and 4) that women and girls live in environments that protect/promote their health.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: This caucus has remained in touch during the Intersessional meetings and has continued to lobby governments with the document produced in March.

Special Session: Several panels will be convened.

WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT: This caucus identified five core issues: 1) the abolition of war and conversion of military resources for peaceful purposes such as peace education; 2) equal participation of women in peace processes including peace negotiations; 3) equitable humanitarian assistance and protection for refugee women and displaced persons; 4) an end to impunity for crimes against humanity against women and girls during conflicts and support for an international criminal court; and 5) support for women in their peace building efforts. Caucus members have continued to lobby governments at Intersessionals and at home.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE ISSUES

Special Session: Daily meetings, an exhibition on women's work in conflict and peace and a NGO/UN panel.

WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY: This caucus identified these issues: 1) the current neo-liberal macroeconomic model does not enable women or governments to advance the PFA and women's rights; 2) future lobbying efforts must take the international economic system into consideration; 3) global decision-making bodies such as the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank must be more closely monitored; 4) gender, race, and class need to be linked to understand the full diversity of women and how that affects their economic status.

Special Session: Daily meetings, a joint panel with UNIFEM on globalization, a workshop as part of the Economic Empowerment activities organized by the AFL-CIO, and a radio interview.

WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING: This caucus identified these issues: 1) numerical, time-specific targets for women's representation in cabinet ministries and legislatures at all levels of government; 2) leadership training for women to prepare them for public office, both appointed and elective; 3) gender-sensitive training for women and men in government; and, 4) the provision of gender-based research and analysis.

Special Session: The caucus, in collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), plans a launch of the global campaign "50/50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right!!"

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS: Identified as main issues: 1) institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women should be given a clear permanent mandate within national governing systems to ensure their continuance; 2) governments should establish a transparent political process and should make information available about commitments made; 3) national action plans should contain time-bound targets with clear budget lines to be reviewed annually; 4) statistical offices should gen-

erate gender-sensitive statistical indicators to monitor institutional mechanisms; 5) developed countries should support national capacity in developing countries; 6) technical assistance funds for governments and NGOs should be established.

Special Session: Plans not finalized, for updates contact: Jackie Shapiro at: jacci007@aol.com, Tel: (1-212) 249-4065.

HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN: This caucus followed progress on the Outcomes Document during the Intersessional meetings via a list-serve.

Special Session: The caucus will not meet but organizations in the caucus will co-host panels addressing topics such as women's human rights, migrants' needs, the trafficking in people, and human rights for sex workers.

WOMEN AND THE MEDIA: This caucus worked to increase awareness surrounding women and media and specifically, 1) on the new information communication technologies and 2) in exploring the idea of including media as an indicator of women's progress. Discussions have continued via an email list focusing on a lobbying strategy for the Intersessional meetings. The caucus met May 29, to present a summary of activities in March and finalized plans for the Special Session. The caucus planned to meet again May 30, 31 to monitor government discussions of Section J of the Outcomes Document.

Special Session: Will meet every other day to concretize the idea of a global women and media resource database and to advocate for the use of media as a progress indicator.

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT: This caucus stressed the need to put the preservation of the environment at the center of development efforts. This includes efforts in food security, land protection, to offer clean water, and provide sanitation.

Special Session: Plans not finalized.

CAUCUSES

THE GIRL-CHILD: The three most important issues are: 1) the increasing violence against girls including incest, rape by individuals or military police, infanticide, female genital mutilation, and honor killings; 2) the increasing and newly emerging vulnerability of girls to HIV/AIDS; and 3) the meaningful participation of girls in decisions, and programmes affecting their lives. Worked with the youth caucus.

Special Session: Daily meetings, a symposium entitled "Girls as Their Own Advocates".

AFRICAN CAUCUS: This caucus was facilitated by a task force of African non-governmental organizations and networks who worked to disseminate information about the Beijing +5 review process throughout Africa. Most of this information has been posted at: <http://www.flamme.org>.

ARAB WOMEN: The main issues are: 1) the negative impact of globalization and structural adjustment on Arab women; 2) the violation of the rights of women under occupation and the effects of the economic embargo; and 3) the violence against women that continues in many countries in the Arab world.

Special Session: This caucus will participate in panels and workshops coordinated by the thematic caucuses, in particular those addressing poverty, globalization and women's rights.

ASIA-PACIFIC CAUCUS: The five priorities for this caucus are: 1) women and the economy; 2) the continuing human rights abuses of women; 3) women in armed conflict; 4) institutional mechanisms to promote equality for women; and 5) the lack of access to political participation and decision-making. Email discussion continues at: apwomen2000@isis.com.

Special Session: A workshop is planned.

EUROPEAN UNION CAUCUS:

Special Session: To meet daily and also with the Karat coalition (Eastern Europe) to discuss Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women.

FRANCOPHONE: This caucus named 1) economy, 2) politics and 3) the media as the most important spheres in which women must attain decisional power. In addition, they believe that women must receive leadership training to participate more effectively in all of these spheres.

KARAT COALITION: (Network of women's NGOs from Central Eastern Europe): This caucus identified 1) institutional mechanisms, 2) women and the economy and 3) women and armed conflict as their most critical issue areas.

Special Session: Will meet to plan their strategy for the Beijing+10 process. They communicate over email at: karat2000@egroups.com.

WOMEN AND GLOBALIZATION: As globalization increasingly impacts the lives of women and their families, this caucus promotes respect for social, cultural and religious differences that are being subsumed in a global society.

Special Session: Will hold a "Women and Globalization" panel.

WOMEN OF COLOUR: This group formed to consider the intersection between racism and gender discrimination. It seeks to link follow-up for the Beijing Platform for Action with the World Conference against Racism, Xenophobia and All Forms of Discrimination to be held in 2001.

THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN 2005: This caucus will coordinate NGO activities working towards an effective follow up to the series of world meetings on the issue of women.

UPROOTED WOMEN CAUCUS: This caucus will focus on the concerns of refugee, internally displaced and migrant women and will link with other caucuses including Women in Armed Conflict, Africa and Asia Pacific caucuses. This newly formed caucus is being convened by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE ISSUES

INDIGENOUS WOMEN: This caucus highlights indigenous women's concerns and their need to be fully engaged in the Beijing+5 process. These issues included: 1) power and decision-making, 2) education, 3) the environment, 4) land and territorial rights, 5) the issue of collective rights, 6) the economy and 7) poverty, violence, health and racism.

Special Session: A full day forum on International Indigenous Women on June 1 to prepare for the rest of the meeting time, daily caucus meetings and several panels and roundtables.

WORKING WOMEN: This caucus formed to highlight the importance of recognizing and valuing women laborers and supporting efforts of women who seek equal access to resources for sustainable livelihoods.

YOUTH: This caucus has the following goals: 1) to raise awareness about specific issues and perspectives of young women; 2) to advocate for institutional mechanisms that facilitate access, participation and leadership of young women; and 3) to build a diverse global network of youth activists within the mainstream women's movement.

Special Session: Will convene two intergenerational roundtables and will lead a panel discussion on "Feminism and the Third Wave: Young Women's Perspectives on Feminism and Beijing+5".

MENTAL HEALTH: This caucus works to: 1) raise awareness that mental health and psychosocial well-being are emerging issues for women and girls that cut across all 12 critical areas of concern; 2) eliminate discrimination against women and girls in mental and physical health care and develop appropriate mental health care for women throughout their life-cycle; and 3) follow up implementation of the resolution on Women and Mental Health passed at the 43rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1999.

Special Session: Will distribute this resolution and meet regularly.

OLDER WOMEN: All critical areas of concern relate to older women and yet there is little attention paid to the implications of these concerns to older women. Specifically, in the areas of: 1) poverty and older women; 2) violence against the elderly; and 3) life-span and intergenerational relationships. **Special Session:** This group, together with the Youth and Girl-child caucuses will host an intergenerational dialogue on "Mentoring: Is it only One-Sided?".

JUSCANNZ NGO CAUCUS: The goal of this caucus is to plan how NGOs can work together to strategize effectively in lobbying individual JUSCANNZ governments and the JUSCANNZ government negotiating group as a whole. To participate, contact Suki Beavers at <email: fafiadir@web.net>.

YOUNG WOMEN AND HEALTH: This caucus was convened to discuss women's health, specifically focusing on the situation of young women. Organizers collected testimonies of women from different countries on issues of healthcare or reproductive rights.

LESBIAN CAUCUS: This caucus highlighted these issues: 1) promoting an awareness about sexuality and its connections to discrimination, violence and other forms of human rights violations; 2) raising the visibility of lesbian issues; and 3) promoting collaborative efforts among women to strengthen our social justice organizing efforts. They are defining a communication strategy to continue networking.

Special Session: To convene a panel, on Wednesday, June 7th.



NGO ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL REPORT

First, The Official Government Country Reports:

In October 1998, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UN/DAW) sent out a questionnaire to all United Nations Member States requesting a report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. As of May 1, 2000, 144 Member States and two Observer States had responded and these responses are available on the UN/DAW web-site at:

<www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/countrylist.htm>

NGO Alternative Reports:

The Alternative Country Reports provide information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action from a non-governmental perspective. They have been compiled by NGOs who have been monitoring the implementation (or lack thereof) in their countries and regions.

Lobbying Tools at the National Level:

While input from NGO Alternative Reports will be included in the *NGO ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL REPORT* (more about this below), they are also an important tool for local and national NGOs to use when lobbying national governments. The reports highlight the areas where obstacles to achieving

the strategic objectives
still exist

and where additional government action is needed. This can be particularly effective when compared to the government's own assessment of the status quo.

NGO GLOBAL ALTERNATIVE REPORT:

The International NGO Coordinating Committee (INCC), set up by CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN), nominated a small sub-committee to pull together all of the NGO Alternative Reports received by CONGO and to work with regional representatives in putting together a final NGO Global Alternative Report.

The NGO Global Alternative Report contains: a background to Beijing Plus Five; regional summaries of the reports; an executive summary identifying obstacles, progress made, emerging issues and recommendations; and a list of country, regional and thematic issue reports with contact information for the producers of the reports.

Regional representatives were asked to prepare a 10-page summary for their region which includes, as far as possible, the main points and concerns covered in their regional reports.

Copies of the NGO Alternative Global Report

will be available at the NGO Working Group Meeting (June 3rd), and at the Special Session (June 5-9, 2000) on the 2nd floor of 777 UN Plaza. For more information or to order a copy, contact:

CONGO
777 United Nations
Plaza
Eighth Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: (1-212) 986-0821
Email: <congong@aol.com>



A LIST OF ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY REPORTS

Accessing Alternative Reports:

Has an alternative country report been written for your country? Have you read the report for your country and sent it to your government representatives?

Most reports that are available on-line can be found on the *WOMENACTION 2000* site at:
<<http://www.womenaction.org/global/reports.html>>
All reports on-line are marked with an "*" below.

The following is a list of all reports received by CONGO, all of which will be listed in the Appendices of the NGO Alternative Report:

I). Africa

Regional:

- *•Addis Ababa regional meeting

Country:

1. Ghana: Network for Women's Rights
2. Kenya: African Center for Empowerment, Gender and Advocacy
3. Nigeria: Lagos Zone
4. Namibia: Namibian Women's Association
5. South Africa: Women's National Coalition
6. Sudan: National NGO Forum
7. Zambia: NGO Coordination Committee

II). Asia and the Pacific

Regional:

- Asia Pacific Lobbying Document
- Asian Indigenous Women
- East Asian Preparatory Meeting
- Gender, Poverty and Human Rights in Asia, Pacific Regional YWCA
- *•The Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APCD), Gender and Development (GAD)
- Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

Country:

1. Australia (3 reports): Women's Rights Action Network; ANGWO; Institute of the Sisters of Mercy
- *2. Bangladesh (2 reports): NGO Committee for B+5; Ain o Shalish Kendro

II). Asia and the Pacific (continued)

Country:

3. Cambodia: Gender and Development Network for Cambodia
4. China (2 reports): All China Women's Federation, China and Working Group Against Domestic Violence
5. Hong Kong (2 reports): Equal Opportunity Commission; Organizing Committee for Hong Kong Perspectives on Beijing+5
6. Indonesia (2 reports): INGO Communication Forum for Women; Indonesian Women Forum for Democracy
7. India: Indian Women's Movement
- *8. Japan (5 reports): NGO Report Preparatory Committee; Japan Federation of Bar Associations; Association for a Successful Woman 2000; New Japan Womens' Association; NY Coalition on Comfort Women Issues
9. Kazakhstan: The Feminist League
10. Korea: Korean Women NGO Network
11. Laos: Niramoh Chanlivong, Champa, ARROW
12. Nepal: Beyond Beijing Committee
- *13. Pakistan (2 reports): NGO Coordinating Committee for Beijing; Mountain Women Development Organization Gigit
- *14. Philippines: Philippine Beijing Score Board NGO
15. Sri Lanka: Centre for Women's Research
16. Thailand (3 reports): Thai Women Watch and Bangkok University; The Federation of Business and Professional Women's Association; The Garden of Hope Foundation
17. Tajikistan: Mahramova, Muminova, Kaymov
18. Vietnam (2 reports): Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development; Vietnamese Women's Union

III). Latin America/Caribbean

Regional:

- Coalicion Politica de Mujeres Andinas
- Red de Mujeres Afrocaribenas y Afro-lati-noamericanas
- Education in the Andes Region: Flora Tristan

A LIST OF ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY REPORTS

III). Latin America/Caribbean (continued)

Regional:

•La Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional y la Igualdad de Genero en la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo

•Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)

Country:

1. El Salvador: Concertacion Feminista Prudencia Ayala- CEMUJER
2. Mexico
3. Peru: Grupo Impulsor Nacional Mujeres por la Igualdad Real

IV) Europe/North America

Regional:

*•European Women's Lobby

Country:

- *1. Albania: Millennium Women Network and AWF
- *2. Austria (2 reports): Umsetzung der Aktionsplattform von Beijing in den Haus-problmbereichen Armut; Wirtschaft und Umwelt and WIDE Osterreich
- *3. Belgium (3 reports): Commission des Femmes et Developpement; Dutch-Speaking Council of Women (NVR); Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique
- *4. Bulgaria (2 reports): Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation; Women's Alliance for Development
- *5. Canada (3 reports): Canadian

- *6. Denmark: Women's Council in Denmark
- *7. Finland: Finnish NGO Working Group Beijing +5
- *8. Germany: Heinrich Boll Foundation
- *9. Holy See: Catholics for Free Choice
- *10. Ireland: National Women's Council of Ireland
11. Israel: The Israel Women's Network
12. Italy: NGO comments for Beijing +5: ARCI-DONNA
- *13. Macedonia: Union of Women's Organizations of the Republic of Macedonia
- *14. Moldova Republic: Gender Center
- *15. The Netherlands (3 reports): Platform for Action Plan 2000 and E-Quality, Dutch Platform for Women and Health, and Transact
16. Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
- *17. Norway: Forum for Women and Development
- *18. Poland: Women's Association for Gender Equality
- *19. Portugal
- *20. Romania: AnA- The Romanian Society for Feminist Analyses
- *21. Russia
- *22. Slovakia: Gondwana Foundation, Alliance of Women of Slovakia
- *23. Spain
24. Sweden (2 reports): Forum for Cooperation of Women in Sweden, Association for Widows and Widowers in Sweden
25. Switzerland: NGO Coordination for the Follow-up of Beijing
26. Turkey (2 reports): Ucan Haber; The Capital City Women's Platform
- *27. Ukraine
- *28. UK: Women's National Commission
29. US (4 reports): Women's Environment and Development Organization, Mass Action for Women, CAWA, United Nations Association of San Diego Women's Equity Council



A LIST OF ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY REPORTS

V) ESCWA: Western Asia

Regional:

- Jordanian National Council of Women
- Jordanian National Committee for Women
- International Islamic Committee for Women and Children

Country:

- *1. Iran (3 reports): NCWDI; Women's Solidarity Association; CNWN
- 2. Pakistan: NGO Coordinating Committee

VI) Thematic reports:

1. **Institutional Mechanisms, Health, Economy, Human rights, Political Processes:** American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
2. **Health, Human Rights, Girl-Child, Education:** WomenSport International and Women's Sport Foundation
- *3. **Poverty, Health, Environment:** Medecins du Monde International/Doctors of the World
4. **Women Migrant Workers in Asia :** Gender and Development Office of APDC.
5. **Trafficking of Women:** Asia Network on Women and International Migration
6. **Mujeres Indigenas/Indigenous Women:** Comision de Instrumentos Internacionales del Enlace Continental
7. **Women and Health:** ARROW

VI) Thematic reports (continued):

8. **Domestic Violence:** ACWF and CWGADV
9. **Women and Armed Conflict:** Madeleine Gilchrist , Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, (VOW); Joy Woolfrey (VOW); Macha Mackay (VOW); Bruna Nota, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF); Rosalie Bertell, International Institute Center for Public Health, (IICPH)
10. **Health, Education, Media:** 1999 Starr Symposium PICW Report
- *11. **Women and Media:** Isis International/Manila, on behalf of WomenAction 2000
- *12. **Women and Media:** The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasting - Women's International Network
13. **Refugee Women and Children:** Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children
14. **Women and Human Rights:** Human Rights Advocates
15. **The Girl Child:** Namibian Women's Association
16. **Women and Health:** ARROW -Monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action - Health Rights and Gender Sensitive Health Policies and Programmes
- *17. **Unsafe Abortion:** IPAS
18. **Violence against Women, Housing Rights:** Human Rights Advocates, Inc.

VII) General reports:

- *1. Soroptimist International
2. Fraternité Notre Dame
- *3. Federacion Democratica Int'l de Mujeres
- *4. Int'l Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Total Number of Reports:

Africa:1 regional, 7 country
 Asia /Pacific: 6 regional, 18 country
 Latin America/Caribbean: .. 5 regional, 3 country
 Europe/North America: ... 1 regional, 29 country
 Western Asia:3 regional, 2 country
 Thematic/General:22

TOTAL97



GETTING THE WORD OUT:

During the UN Special Session women activists and media organizations are working together to put the international spotlight on women's issues as critical issues for all. Working through both alternative and mainstream media sources, journalists and non-journalists alike will be getting the word out so that the concerns of women are known to all and are taken seriously by the global community and national governments.

While it is important that the Beijing +5 Special Session is covered in mainstream media sources to guarantee that women's issues are given the prominence they deserve, it is also critical that alternative media sources in all mediums - print, radio, web etc.- carry the story to activists worldwide. Media/publicity efforts will focus on covering the issues through every source possible. On-site training and support by experienced journalists will assist all interested activists in reporting back to their communities in their native languages. Trainings will emphasize the use of new technologies to facilitate this process and make traditional news outlets - such as radio and print journalism - more effective. In addition, many alternative media activities will make UN proceedings more inclusive by allowing people all over the world to follow the proceedings via the Internet, e-mail listserves and radio broadcasts.



On these pages, we have listed many of the training activities and resources that will be available on-site to all NGO participants. Activities will take place in the Media Information and NGO Activity Centre on the 2nd floor of the Church Center at the UN, 777 UN Plaza, unless otherwise noted. The Media Center operates from June 1-9, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and will have press releases, events schedules, statements, reports, contact lists, and telephones. Printers and copiers will also be available for a nominal fee. This is also the site of the Beijing +5 Internet Café where there will be 18 computers available on a first-come, first-serve basis for accessing the Internet, sending information to outlets worldwide, email, etc.

The Strategy: Putting the Media Spotlight on the Special Session

1) Calling on the Press to Cover Women's Human Rights Issues

To accomplish this task, the Communications Consortium (CCMC) has worked with NGOs to identify people from around the world with expertise in women's human rights issues to act as spokespeople. To support the work of NGOs globally, CCMC will make linkages with press representatives, organize interviews, disseminate information through media kits and press releases and provide technical support to other activists who wish to write and send home press releases. Contact: Kathy Bonk or Emily Tynes at <e-mail: women2000@ccmc.org>.

2) Getting Women's Issues into Mainstream Media in All World Regions

17 women activists from the Global South will use the Special Session to receive on-site journalist training as part of a project created by Isis International/Manila to help stimulate the interest of the mainstream media in the Beijing +5 review. The Global Media Initiative aims to promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in media, and to identify concrete strategies to increase women's access to and participation in media. Participating journalists will learn to formu-

MEDIA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION

late and implement a media and communication plan targeted towards mainstream media outlets. Their stories will be disseminated to media outlets based in New York, their countries of origin and key press agencies. Contact: Mavic Cabrera Balleza:

<e-mail: <mavic@isiswomen.org>.

3) Opportunities for “Hands-On-Learning” in Internet Radio and Web Broadcasting

Activists can learn to integrate internet technology with traditional radio broadcasting. FIRE from Costa Rica invites everyone to “become a producer” by signing up to organize a live show for the series, “Voices Without Brackets”. FIRE staff will do the technical work or they can teach you the controls. Each half-hour show must focus on the role of both alternative and mainstream media in advancing one of the 12 critical areas of concern from the PFA. Radio interviews will be broadcast over radio in Costa Rica and will be available on FIRE’s website at <<http://www.fire.or.cr>>. By downloading “Real Audio” or a similar audio transmission software, anyone from around the world can listen to the recorded programs. Contact Maria Suarez and Katerina Anfossi, Co-Directors of FIRE on the 6th Floor of the UN Church Center, or by e-mail at <fuegocr@racsa.co.cr>.

4) Using Interactive Web Television to Highlight Women’s Issues

Cyberfemmes, a programme of Les Pénélopes, will air daily one-hour interactive multimedia television programmes on the Internet to both showcase the capabilities of interactive television and to highlight the following themes: media, armed conflict and violence, globalization, reproductive health, environment and food security. Programs will be broadcast live from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., with both audio and video on the web, and will be in French. Full text will be available in both English and French on the web site. On-line chatrooms will host discussions on each theme. The programmes will be archived and stored on the Internet until

October, for retrieval and circulation after the Special Session. Contact: Joelle Palmieri at <cyberfemmes@penelopes.org> or go on-line at <http://www.canalweb.net/vers/cyberfemmes/asp>.

5) Getting Mainstream Journalists to Cover the Special Session and Send the Word Home

Seven women journalists from Latin America, Africa, CEE/CIS and Asia and the Pacific will ensure that information about Beijing+5 gets out to a wider international audience. They will be covering panels as well as the main sessions, networking with other journalists and media activities. These journalists, who have been invited by UNIFEM, will send press releases home for national press briefings in their native languages.

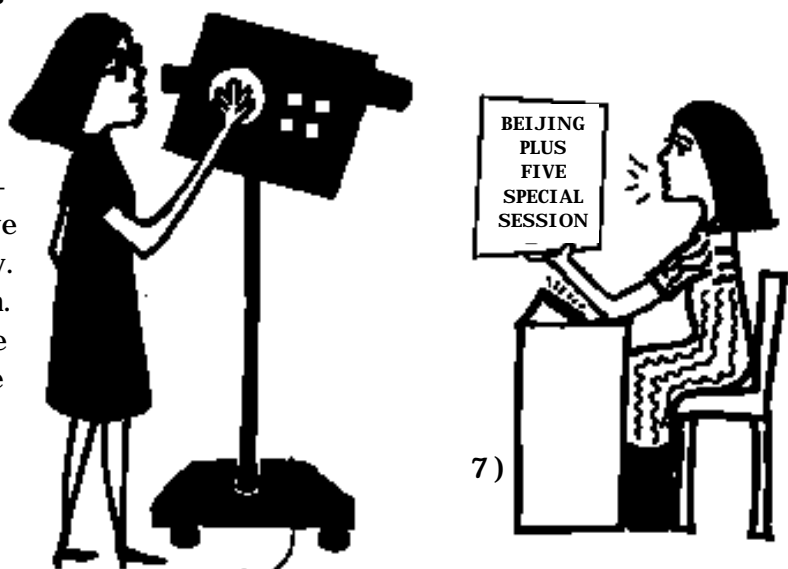
6) Journalists’ Encounter

The opening programme of the Japan NGO Global Forum will provide an opportunity to network with media professionals committed to women’s human rights. Panelists include Raghida Dergham, UN Correspondent; Barbara Crossette, UN Bureau Chief, New York Times; Susan Markham, Chief, Promotion and Planning, UNDP; and Dr. Patricia Flor, Chairperson, CSW 1999.

Location: 809 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

Registration required. Contact at:

<<http://members.aol.com/womenmedia/>>



KEEPING INFORMED:

Practical Information for Journalists

Journalist Accreditation:

Special UN accreditation is required for media personnel. Application forms must be accompanied by a letter of assignment from a publisher, assignment editor or bureau chief on official media organization letterhead. For more details, contact: Sonia Lecca, UN Department of Public Information, Media Unit, Rm. S-250, New York, NY 10017; Tel: (1-212) 963-6934, or -3866. Fax: (1-212) 963-4642; Web: <<http://www.un.org/geninfo/malu.htm>>

A special journalist website has been set up for the Special Session with Beijing +5 background information and a calendar of events. <<http://www.women2000newsroom.org>>

Media Press Kit:

Press kits are available for journalists from the NGO Media Activity Centre on the 2nd floor of the Church Center at the United Nations, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. They include: 1) a schedule of event highlights; 2) key location and contact information; 3) a background of the Special Session; 4) a summary of each of the 12 critical areas of concern from the Platform for Action; and 5) the Outcomes Document, noting progress made since 1995. The Press Kit has been posted on the UN WomenWatch web site at: <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/session/presskit/presskit.htm>>

Whether or not you are accredited to the Special Session, you will still be able to follow government proceedings and receive news updates at various venues in New York and over the Internet/email.

Live Coverage of Plenary Sessions Throughout the Special Session:

- **Conference Room 1 at the UN** is the designated UN Media Room and will be equipped with "a live feed" so that journalists can both see and hear plenary sessions.
- **Conference Room 4** is reserved for NGO activities. On Monday and Friday, the Opening and Closing sessions will be shown. A daily briefing will be held from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., covering the progress of the Outcomes Document, planned activities, etc.

Those who can not be at the UN or even in New York can still view the proceedings:

- **US Custom House:** Closed Circuit TV
Participants can watch the Opening Plenary Session through closed circuit TV at the US Custom House, One Bowling Green (near Battery Park), State Street entrance. The Opening Plenary begins on 5 June 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

**INFORMATION
IS POWER**



MEDIA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION

- **Live Webcast**

Available on-line at: <<http://www.un.org/women-watch/daw/followup/session/webcast.htm>>. Both audio and visual coverage in real time via the Internet. Download free software ("RealPlayer") at: <<http://scopes.real.com/real/player>>.

Resources and Informative Activities:

1) Daily Newspapers and NGO Documents:

Plans are underway for 3 daily newspapers - each with a unique perspective. These are:

- **Daily News in Support of the PFA:**

To be produced by *WomenAction 2000*, a coalition of more than 40 women's media and information groups from every world region. Will include updates on the UN Outcome Document, regular features, news reports, and a daily schedule. Contact Daphne Plou, editor, 6th floor, Church Center or Karen Banks at <karenb@gn.apc.org>

- **"FLAME/FLAMME", a daily newspaper with an African perspective:**

A collaborative effort between African Women and Child Feature Service, APC-Africa-Women, Femnet and IPS Africa.

- **Earth Times:**

Earth Times. Contact Editor-in-Chief Pranay Gupte, E-mail: <earthtms@worldnet.att.net>. Fax: (1-212) 297-0566.

2) UN Documents

Available in the NGO Resource Centre, UN Secretariat, ground floor. Many relevant documents are on-line at: <<http://www.un.org/women-watch/daw/followup/reports.htm>>

3) Women, Ink Bookstore

For cutting-edge materials on women's human rights issues, produced by women from all world regions, visit the *Women, Ink*. Bookstore at the International Women's Tribune Centre, 3rd floor, 777 UN Plaza. Resources on each of the 12 critical areas, plus emerging issues, are available.

Women, Ink. is also the sole distributor for UNIFEM publications. You can shop on-line at the re-designed *Women, Ink*. website:

<<http://www.womenink.org>>.

4) Women 2000 International Film Festival

A variety of films and documentaries will be shown daily at the US Custom House. Each film highlights one of the 12 critical areas of concern with an international perspective. Several showings will be followed by a question and answer session with the director or film-maker. A full schedule will be available through the Beijing + 5 NGO Host Committee (website: <<http://www.beijingplus5hostcomm.com>>) and through the *Daily News*.

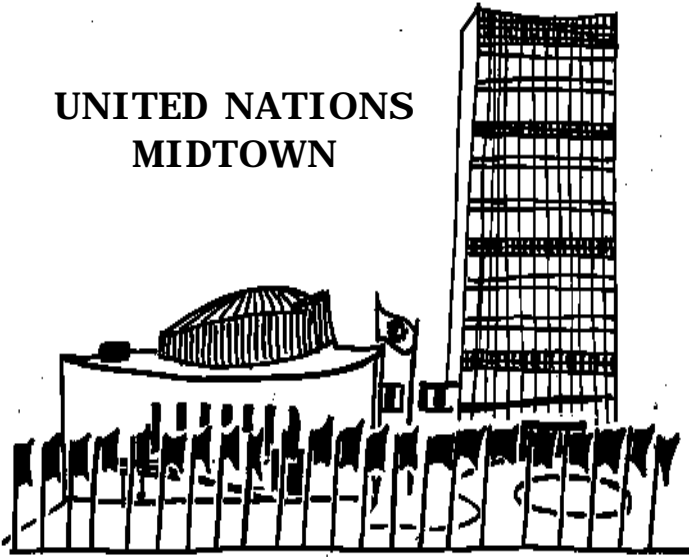
**USE IT!
SHARE IT!**



ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THE UN

Official meetings, where UN Member States will negotiate a final Outcomes Document that reviews implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, will take place here:

UNITED NATIONS MIDTOWN

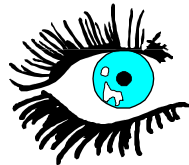
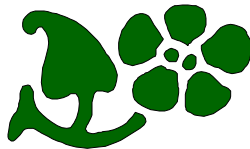


Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), along with Member State delegations, will be able to follow the negotiations and other activities and events, through 3 daily newspapers:

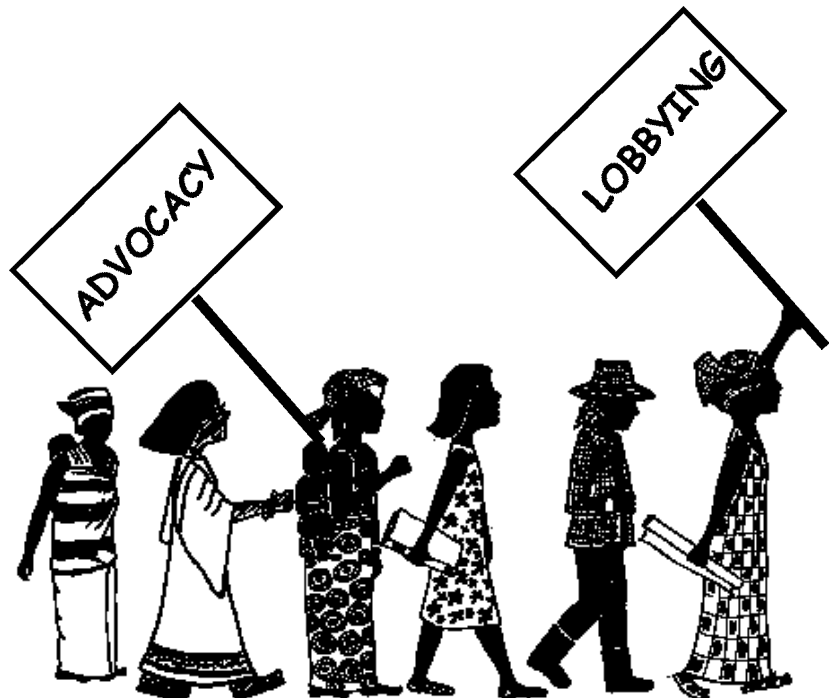


One special event will be an international women's art exhibition in the UN Visitors Lobby, produced by the International Museum of Women and UNIFEM.

Many NGOs will spend much of their time meeting in caucuses and workshops, and lobbying delegates on critical areas of concern in the Outcomes Document.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ART EXHIBITION



SPECIAL SESSION ON BEIJING PLUS FIVE

A Media Activity Centre, 2nd Floor, CCUN, 777 UN Plaza, will include a NGO Media Center for the press and an Internet Café.



NGO caucuses and workshops on the 12 critical areas of concern, plus other emerging issues, will take place both at the UN and at the CCUN. Activities are also planned at various New York universities, including Hunter College, the Graduate Center of CUNY, and more.



Other activities include the Japan NGO Forum at 809 UN Plaza, interactive TV and radio webcasts from the CCUN, and an International Film Festival at the US Custom House.



A major center of NGO activities will be downtown near Battery Park at the US Custom House, One Bowling Green, New York. These activities are being coordinated by the Beijing Plus Five NGO Host Committee.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

The following selected publications are new to the Women, Ink. collection, and focus on issues that have either emerged or have increased in their impact on women's lives in the years since the meetings in Beijing in 1995.

Armed Conflict and the Peace Process

Towards a Women's Agenda for a Culture of Peace

Ingeborg Breines, Dorota Gierycz & Betty Reardon

The year 2000 is the International Year for the Culture of Peace, and this excellent publication shows how indispensable women's "visions, intelligence, energy and experience" are to the peace process. A joint venture between UNESCO and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, it analyses issues and problems of women's roles in times of war as well as in peace.

1999. 265 pages. WE 502V. ISBN 92-3-103559-2. US\$17.50

Communications and Information Technology

Changing Lenses: Women's Perspectives on Media

Provides a comprehensive overview of the state of women and the media in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on violence against women. It comprises research done by Isis International/Manila, and is based on a multi-media forum organized by Isis and UNIFEM at the 42nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1997. Ten country experiences are featured. They reveal that, despite some headway made by women in the media, many issues still remain, particularly with respect to the representation and portrayal of women in the media.

1999. 173 pages. WE 498V. ISBN 971-8829-09-1. US\$8.00

Gender and the Information Revolution in Africa

Eva Rathgeber and Edith Ofwona Adera

Collected essays that examine the current and potential impact on women of the explosion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Africa. The focus is on gender issues and the book analyzes the extent to which women's needs and preferences are being served. Whether in the field of agriculture, health, microenterprise or education, the needs of rural women are emphasized. The authors argue that women must be decision-makers and active participants in the process of using new ICTs to accelerate African economic, social and political development.

2000. 256 pages. WE 503V. ISBN 0-88936-903-8. US\$24.95

Women's Voices on FIRE: Feminist International Radio Endeavour. María Suarez Toro

This fascinating and informative publication is both a comprehensive history of the Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) in Costa Rica and an account of the organization's role in the growth of the global feminist movement. Since its beginnings in short-wave radio in 1991, FIRE has taken its microphones around the world to record women's lives and experiences. A major activity has been the catalyzing and recording of local, regional and international tribunals of violations of women's human rights. This book shows how, whether broadcasting from tiny rural villages or large UN conferences, FIRE has provided a space for the voices of women to be heard.

2000. 510 pages. WE 496V. ISBN 0-9672912-0-8. US\$20.00

Globalization and Economics

1999 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Globalization, Gender and Work.

United Nations

Produced every 5 years, this survey explores the positive and negative economic effects of globalization. Three trends described are: trade liberalization and expansion; the spread of production capacity through direct investment by multinationals; and the increased international mobility of capital. These have led not only to what it describes as the global reality of the increased participation of women in paid work, but also to the parallel outcome of increased economic volatility, job insecurity and loss of livelihood. Serves as a basic document for the Beijing+5 Special Session.

1999. 76 pages. WE 488W. ISBN 92-1-130200-5. US\$14.95

Progress of the World's Women. Diane Elson (Ed.)

UNIFEM's new biennial report (to be launched at the B+5 Special Session), examines women's progress and setbacks on the road to empowerment. The report offers insights to promote and secure the implementation of the commitments made at the global conferences of the 1990s. This first issue focuses on women's economic rights. Forthcoming: June 2000.

Contact Women, Ink. for price and details.

The Women's Budget Series. Debbie Budlender (Ed.)

Published by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA), this series examines the gender impact of key aspects of the budget in that country.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Globalization and Economics (continued)

It is an examination of all programmes, policies and allocated funds in the national budget of the country and their impact on women, and is essential reading for anyone interested in the transformation of South African society.

The Women's Budget

1996. 259 pages. WE 518V. ISBN 1-874864-32-2. US\$8.95

The Second Women's Budget

1997. 318 pages. WE 520V. ISBN 1-874864-54-3. US\$9.95

The Third Women's Budget

1998. 305 pages. WE 521V. ISBN 1-874864-76-4. US\$9.95

The Fourth Women's Budget

1999. 371 pages. WE 522V. ISBN 1-874864-96-9. US\$11.00

Money Matters

Karen Hurt and Debbie Budlender (Eds.)

Based on chapters from *The Women's Budget* and *The Second Women's Budget*. It serves as a summary and brief analysis.

1998. 108 pages. WE 523V. ISBN 1-874864-79-9. US\$7.95

Health and Sexuality

Asia-Pacific Post-Beijing Implementation Monitor

1999 Health

Asia and Pacific Development Centre

The 1999 monitor provides an overview and analysis of implementation strategies of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Asia-Pacific region with a special focus on women and health. Well-compiled and wide-ranging, it contains 33 government and NGO reports from 17 countries. Issues examined include reproductive health rights, trafficking in women, HIV/AIDS, the impact of globalization on women's health and health conditions of indigenous and other marginalized women, as well as women in situations of armed conflict.

1999. 388 pages. WE 495V. ISBN 967-9928-60-8. US\$25.00

Women Coping with HIV/AIDS: We Take It As It Is

Judith van Woudenberg

HIV/AIDS is a particular risk for women in developing countries. This report, based on a 14-month study in Zimbabwe, reaches into the experiences of 35 HIV-positive women, delineating their coping strategies and

Health and Sexuality (continued)

the support they needed and received. Ideal for policymakers, counselors and researchers involved in the care and support of those affected by HIV/AIDS. Numerous quotations from the participants in the study reflect the concerns of the thousands of HIV-positive women around the world.

1998. 126 pages. WE 517V. ISBN 90-6832-834-4. US\$9.00

Human Rights

To Promote and Protect Women's Human Rights: A Handbook of Mobilization Strategies for Women's Nongovernmental Organizations.

Jennifer Kloes

This handbook was developed for women's NGOs in Eastern Europe but can easily be adapted to other situations and realities. A great self-education tool, it can be used in training sessions or academic programmes, for women participating in exchange programmes, and as an introduction to the organizational models and techniques employed by women (and men) seeking to participate in public life.

1999. 110 pages. WE 524. US\$28.00

All books are available from Women, Ink. at:

777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: (1-212) 687-8633 ext. 204 or Fax: (1-212) 661-2704

Email: <wink@womenink.org> or order through our newly updated and SECURE WEBSITE! <<http://www.womenink.org>>

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FINDING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS...

Women worldwide are organizing to put words into action. The following are a few campaigns in which women are engaged to build public awareness and demand action on specific critical areas of concern from the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA).

PFA LINK: Women and Human Rights

CAMPAIGN: "Honor Your Commitments. Change Discriminatory Laws Now!"

Equality Now is coordinating a global campaign to hold governments accountable to the commitments they have made to the Beijing Platform for Action. By reaching out to a diverse group of women worldwide, **Equality Now** has compiled information on existing discriminatory laws. The campaign calls on governments to repeal or reform these laws in accordance with the implementation of the PFA.

At the Beijing +5 Prepcom in March, the organization distributed advocacy cards featuring 14 discriminatory laws alongside the countries in which they are still in force. Discriminatory laws included those demanding wife obedience, denying women the right to vote, and restricting women's rights to inherit, to travel and to transfer citizenship.

Leading up to the UN Special Session, representatives from **Equality Now**, with activists from around the world, have met with government officials from Algeria, Israel, Morocco and Pakistan to present their arguments for legal reform. **Equality Now** will hold the following events during the Special Session: an international press conference and a performance piece entitled "Women Can't Wait" to highlight the impact of discriminatory laws on the lives of seven women around the world.

Equality Now continues to collect information on discriminatory laws. This information can be sent to:

Equality Now,

Fax: (1-212) 586-1611.

E-mail: <info@equalitynow.org>.

PFA LINKS: Women and Armed Conflict and Violence Against Women

CAMPAIGN: From the Village Council to the Negotiating Table: Women Building Peace International Alert wants to ensure that women are at the heart of the peace agenda and of peace building activities worldwide. The campaign joins women and women's organizations to raise awareness of the role that women play at local, national and international levels in peace-making through the following five demands:

1. Include women in peace negotiations as decision-makers.
2. Put women at the heart of reconstruction and reconciliation.
3. Strengthen the protection and representation of refugee and displaced women.
4. End impunity and ensure redress for crimes committed against women.
5. Give women and women's organizations the support and resources they need to build peace.

In addition to promoting discussion of women as peace-builders, the campaign raises awareness of the demands in two specific ways :

1. **The Millennium Peace Prize:** Six women and organizations who have made a significant contribution to peace-building will be recognized during the Millennium Assembly and Forum at the United Nations headquarters in New York.
2. **The Postcard Campaign:** International Alert is collecting signatures asking the international community to stand by the commitments they have made to include women as peace-builders. Signatures to be presented to Kofi Annan in September 2000.

You can request a campaign pack from:

Women Building Peace, 1 Glyn Street,
London SE11 5HT, UK.

Tel: (44-171) 793-8383, Fax: (44-171) 793-7975.

E-mail: <gendercampaign@international-alert.org>

Web: <<http://www.international-alert.org/women>>

...THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS

PFA LINK: Poverty and Economy

CAMPAIGN: Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice

The *Economic Justice Caucus* that met during the Beijing+5 PrepCom in March, 2000, noted that, "while women have played a key role in urging governments to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and have made significant strides through their own efforts, for the vast majority of women, the situation has gotten worse." The caucus blames the neo-liberal economic model for increasing poverty, affecting women disproportionately. To challenge this status quo, members of the caucus have formed *The Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ)*.

WICEJ's "Declaration for Economic Justice and Women's Empowerment" outlines their views, and already has endorsements from more than 20 organizations. They range from grassroots to national, regional and international NGOs from all over the world. The Declaration will be used as an advocacy tool at both international and national levels, and will be shared with UN delegates at the UN Special Session in June, 2000.

To add your organization's signature, contact:
MADRE, 121 West 27th St., #301, New York, NY 10001, USA. Tel: (1-212) 627-0444. E-mail: <madre@igc.org>. Web: <<http://www.madre.org>>.

PFA LINK: Poverty, Violence against Women

CAMPAIGN: World March of Women 2000 to Eliminate Poverty and Violence Against Women

On March 8, 2000, International Women's Day, women in over 90 countries launched a global campaign to demand the elimination of poverty and violence against women. In Rabbat, Egypt, 100,000 women marched; in Mexico, 300,000 signatures were presented to Presidential candidates; in India, 200 women's groups used light to symbolize women's struggles against violence and poverty. Marches and activities are being held in more than 150 countries with 3,700 groups participating.

The World March of Women, over two years in the making, aims to improve women's living conditions through a series of demands presented to national governments as well as to the UN. Campaign demands include calls to eliminate violence against women and eradicate poverty that affects women and their families throughout the world. A signature campaign allows women all over the world to add their voice.

The campaign's finale will feature a march at UN Headquarters in New York on October 17, 2000, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Women will deliver over 10 million signatures to Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN.

The World March of Women 2000 has produced "Changing the World Step-by-Step: Mosaic in Tribute to Women's Struggles World-Wide", a 100 page collection of examples of women's global efforts to change the world. This publication is available free to all participating organizations and for a suggested contribution of CAN\$15 from the address below.

Contact The World March organizers at:
110 Ste-Therese #307, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2Y 1E6. Tel: (1-514) 395-1196, Fax: (1-514) 395-1224.
E-mail: <marche2000@ffq.qc.ca>
Web: <<http://www.ffq.qc.ca>> (Eng., Fr. or Sp.)

PFA LINK: Violence Against Women, Armed Conflict, Human Rights

CAMPAIGN: The Creation of an International Criminal Court

The next PrepCom for the International Criminal Court (ICC), to be held 12-30 June 2000, is considered critical for ensuring a gender perspective in the creation of a fair and effective ICC. *The Women's Caucus for Gender Justice (WCGJ)*, a global coalition of women's human rights organizations, has monitored its development to ensure the integration of gender concerns. The *WCGJ* is now calling on women to contact their parliaments or foreign ministries to express support for the gender issues due to come up at the forthcoming PrepCom.

FINDING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

PFA LINK: Human Rights (continued)

CAMPAIGN: The Creation of an International Criminal Court (continued)

The basic document being negotiated, "The Rome Statute", has an unprecedented level of gender integration. However, since the signing of the statute, advances achieved by women's rights advocates have been challenged by conservative governments and NGOs. The issues at stake include definitions of crimes of sexual and gender violence such as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution and forced sterilization. In addition, there have been attempts to create exceptions for crimes against women when committed in the family or as a matter of religious or cultural concern, and efforts by the U.S. to undermine the Court.

Realizing the potential of the ICC for women all over the world, the *WCGJ* has worked hard on both international and national levels. With legal experts and grassroots activists from over 800 civil society organizations in every world region, these women have made information about the court accessible for all, regardless of legal literacy, so that everyone can get involved.

The ICC will be the world's first permanent international criminal court. In July 1998 in Rome, after years of negotiation, a UN diplomatic conference adopted "The Rome Statute of the ICC". The Statute has been signed by 96 countries and ratified by 8. The ICC will be established after 60 countries both sign and ratify.

To learn more about how you can help, contact:
The Women's Caucus for Gender Justice
P.O. Box 3541 Grand Central P.O., New York, NY 10163.
Tel. (1-212) 697-7741, Fax: (1-212) 949-7996
E-mail: <iccwomen@igc.org>
Web: <<http://www.iccwomen.org>>

PFA LINK: Power and Decision-Making

CAMPAIGN: 50-50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right

On June 8, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) will launch the Global Campaign for Gender Balance in decision and policy-making positions. In support of implementing Section G of the Beijing Platform for Action, WEDO is demanding that governments set a provisional minimum target of 30% representation of women in cabinet ministries and legislative bodies at all levels of governance by 2003 and equal representation by 2005.



The launch will feature both high-ranking and grassroots women leaders from around the world. Following their presentations, there will be a strategy discussion on achieving the campaign's goals. National and international NGO representatives will then develop national action plans.

The campaign will continue by combining international and national action. WEDO will establish a network of national NGOs who endorse the campaign statement and are developing national action plans. The campaign statement will be presented to SG of the UN, Kofi Annan, in September. WEDO will work with local NGOs to assist and support the implementation of national action plans.

For more information contact WEDO:
355 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017,
Tel: (1-212) 973-0325; Fax: (1-212) 973-0335;
E-mail: <wedo@igc.org>



BEYOND BEIJING PLUS FIVE

There are two more "+5" review processes under way- one for the World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995, and one for the World Habitat Conference, Istanbul, 1996.

Copenhagen + 5: Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Development, Geneva, Switzerland.

June 26- 30, 2000:

The UN General Assembly will convene another Special Session in Geneva to review the progress of 117 countries on the commitments they made five years ago at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, May 1995. Country reviews will be conducted on how the international community has progressed on their promise to alleviate poverty, create jobs, and to find a means for social integration. Since the Copenhagen World Summit, an international political culture has been initiated for social progress.

In addition to country reviews, issues surrounding the perils of globalization will be discussed at the Copenhagen + 5 Special Session, including: globalization's social and environmental costs; the promotion of responsible guidelines for corporations; a global economy; and social principles for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

For more information about country reports, and the Copenhagen + 5 Special Session in Geneva, visit the following web-site:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev>.

For NGO participation, contact: Bruno Romazotti.
Fax: (41-22) 749-25-89. Tel: (41-22) 749-25-70.
E-mail: info2000@geneva2000.org

Istanbul+5, New York, USA.

June 2001:

Grassroots women worldwide, part of the Huairou (Habitat) Commission, are campaigning globally for sustainable communities. In 1996, 171 countries adopted the Habitat Agenda at the World Habitat Conference, Istanbul, 1996, which had set out strategies to achieve sustainable economic and

social development in the world's urban areas - many of which concern gender inequality issues.

A major element of the Huairou (Habitat) Campaign is the central role of women in the elaboration of sustainable shelter policies. Two essential strategies for global sustainability are: Good urban governance (to promote inclusiveness) and secure tenure (to reduce poverty and homelessness).

Reviews on good governance will be based on the criteria of transparency, accountability, democratic participation and community partnerships. Secure tenure, a human rights campaign, is the judicial right of access to land or residential property. A major element in securing tenure is the campaign for inheritance rights for women.

For more information on Istanbul + 5 and these global campaigns, visit the following web-sites at:

<http://www.huairoucommission.org>

<http://www.unchs.org>.

If you would like to participate in these campaigns, contact the Huairou Commission at: Tel: (1-718) 388-8915. Fax: (1-718) 388-0285.

ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS



BEYOND BEIJING PLUS FIVE

Additionally, several international meetings will take place during the coming months in which women are taking an active role.

World Exposition 2000: "Humankind- Nature- Technology". Germany

June 1 - October 31, 2000.

Events planned include:

- **Grassroots Women's Academy, Saltzgitter, Germany, June 14 - October 16, 2000.**

Grassroots women activists from around the world will convene to share methods and practices in community building. The International Grassroots Academy will meet one week per month from June-October for training and information workshops as well as presentations about grassroots outreach. The sessions will address "The Family Unit as an Organizing Tool," "Neighbourhood Networks," "Peer Learning and Partnership Building across Borders," and "Reproductive Rights and Healthcare." For more information, visit: <http://www.sustainabledevelopment.org/blp/partners/gwia.html>. or e-mail at: <huiarou@aol.com> or <info@muetterzentrum> or <jaeckel@dji.de>. Tel: (49-5341) 81-67-18. Fax: (49-5341) 81-67-20.

- **International Women's University, Hanover, Germany, July 15 - October 15, 2000.**

The International Women's University is the only gender-specific international university in Europe by, for, and about women. This semester conducted in English will be broken up into one week sessions, providing a forum for researchers, governments, NGOs and grassroots women from all over the world to share and discuss their community development practices. The project areas will include: "Body: Experiences, Politics and Concepts," "City and Gender," "Women Entering the Information Age," and "Women's Work." The weekly sessions will involve training workshops following short presentations, analyses and discussions about various grassroots practices and partnerships. Visit their web-site at: <<http://www.int-frauenuni.de>>.

Millennium Assembly, United Nations, New York September 5 to December 2000:

The 55th UN General Assembly has been designated "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations." It offers the opportunity for the UN to fundamentally re-assess its vision for the next decade and to identify future challenges and means to meet those challenges.

A general theme of the Millennium Assembly will be the role of the United Nations in a globalized world in identifying its tasks, challenges to multi-lateralism, international cooperation and the role of the UN in promoting peace and sustainable development.

The gender component of the preliminary agenda for the Millennium Assembly will include: Social Development and Human Rights, questions relating to the family and the advancement of women, and the implementation of the outcome of the Beijing Plus Five Special Session in June entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century." For more information on the Millennium Assembly and other Millennium events, visit: <<http://www.un.org/millennium>>.

