

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

**IAW NEWSLETTER - April nr. 4**

*Dear IAW members,*

*We urgently ask you to take action — please fax or e-mail as soon as possible after reading the first two issues of this IAW newsletter. Also: the result of FfD in Monterrey is looked at by women's eyes, the World Bank is measured with a women's measure rod and PrepCom III of WSSD is investigated for gender aspects. A handy list of URLs of these and other conferences, some with appropriate documents, is to be found at the end of this newsletter. You will also find IAW news: the program of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Triennial IAW Congress in Colombo, Sri Lanka, looks fine (see the attachments) and Pat Richardson writes: Dear friends and colleagues, My email address has changed ...it is now <[iaw.membership@tsn.cc](mailto:iaw.membership@tsn.cc)> With kindest regards, Pat Richardson, IAW membership Secretary, P.O. Box 380, Nambucca Heads. 2448. N.S.W. AUSTRALIA. Ph. +61 2 65 686239.*



**Equal  
Rights**

**TWO ISSUES THAT NEED YOUR ACTION NOW!**

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

The ICC opens up a new era of accountability for Crimes against Women and is the first international institution to be set up in the 21st century. On Thursday, April 11 2002, the number of ratifications necessary to bring the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into force was exceeded when Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ireland, Jordan, Mongolia, Niger, Romania, and Slovakia, officially completed their ratification in a special ceremony at the UN Treaty Office.

Women's groups have applauded this historic development as the Rome Statute codifies crimes of sexual and gender violence, which had historically not been addressed in humanitarian law. With the necessary ratifications, the Rome Statute will enter into force on 1 July 2002 at which time the Court's jurisdiction will take effect. **It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Assembly of States Parties will convene in September 2002.**

**Appointments to ICC – A Call for Gender Parity among Judges**

Governments represented at the Ninth Session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Criminal Court are negotiating rules of procedure for the nomination and election of judges, prosecutor and deputy prosecutors. A critical component of the gender mainstreaming begun in the Rome Statute is at stake in these negotiations. **Women must be represented on an equal footing.** Included below are websites that provide more information. We urge lobby and write to your Foreign Ministries as well as your Ministries of Justice and Women and your UN missions. We have also included a website where you can obtain contact information.

Though the ICC will not be a part of the United Nations, it is known from experience of monitoring elections for similar posts in the UN system that the need for fair representation of women and men is not taken seriously in the elections, which are also often highly suspect in terms of the vote-trading that accompanies them. As a result, the presence of women in international posts has been appallingly low. Due to the nature of these processes it has also often been difficult for NGOs to monitor the elections and evaluate the background of candidates. An added problem is that qualified women are very rarely informed about the opportunities of the posts at the international level or of the process of nomination at the national level.

*Some examples: Only one woman has ever served as a judge on the International Court of Justice throughout its more than 80-year history. The 34-member International Law Commission had no women throughout its 55-year history until late last year when two women were elected. In the ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, there have been at most 3 women serving at any one time among the 14 permanent judges.*

### **Threats to the Independence of the Court**

There are already serious threats to ICC independence, impartiality and effectiveness. A major stumbling block is the fact that the U.S has not ratified the Rome Statute and may even 'unsign' the treaty - something that has never been done before. Currently, two laws in effect in the US prohibit any support or assistance to the future Court as well as the ongoing process toward its establishment. US hostility stems largely from the fact that the ICC will not be dependent on the UN Security Council for cases that can come before it and the U.S. was not successful in achieving exemptions for U.S. nationals.

IWTC Women's GlobalNet is a production of International Women's Tribune Centre

Web: <http://www.iwtc.org> <http://www.iccnw.org> <http://www.iccwomen.org>

"Women's Caucus for Gender Justice" [caucus@iccwomen.org](mailto:caucus@iccwomen.org) <http://www.un.org/law/icc/>

## **CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT = PUNISHMENT**

### **Former Woman Parliamentarian Faces Charges and Possible Imprisonment for Criticising Jordanian Government**

March 28, 2002: Former member of the Jordanian Parliament Toujan al-Faisal was arrested Saturday, March 16, 2002 following her recent public criticism of the Jordanian government. She was released from Jweidah prison in Amman for health reasons following a hunger strike that she began on March 17th in protest of her arrest. She is charged with "publishing false materials deemed harmful to the country's reputation and that of its citizens", as well as seditious libel and slander, misdemeanors punishable by three to six months of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to 5,000 Jordanian dinars (\$7,060 US) under Article 150 of the Jordanian Penal Code. At this time, the charges against her have not been dropped.

Toujan al-Faisal was the first woman elected to the Jordanian Parliament, where she served from 1993 to 1997. She recently announced that she will be running again for a Parliamentary seat in the upcoming national elections later this year. She is well-known for her vocal pursuit of domestic and women's rights reforms in Jordan. She is said to have accused the Jordanian judiciary of being unjust during an interview with an Arab satellite TV station. She is also said to have posted a statement on the Internet accusing key members of the government of profiting financially from a recent decision to raise vehicle insurance premiums.

Ms al-Faisal's arrest was one of several during the last few weeks, including the arrests of Taj Eddine al-Harroub and Hashem al-Khalidi, owner and chief editor of al-Bilad newspaper, respectively. Numerous political and women's organisations called for the release of Ms al-Faisal, including the Higher Co-ordination Committee of the National Parties, the Islamic Labor Work Party, the Democratic Women's League of the al-Hashad Party, the Women's Affairs Office of the Jordanian Communist Party, and the Jordanian chapter of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights, which called her detention unconstitutional and illegal. The attorney general of the State Security Council also called for her release.

These arrests follow recent "anti-terrorism" laws passed in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. These new, provisional laws were signed by King Abdallah bin Hussein in the absence of Parliament and went into effect on October 2, 2002. They place "limitations on the freedom of expression by making illegal a number of new vaguely defined offences in relation to harming national unity; harming the prestige, integrity and reputation of the state; inciting disturbances, sit-downs and unauthorised public meetings; causing harm to the dignity, reputation or personal freedom of individuals; destabilising society through the promotion of deviance and immorality; and dissemination of false information and rumours" (Amnesty International 19 March 2002 news release <http://www.amnesty.org> and

<http://www.learningpartnership.org/events/newsalerts/jordan0302.html>

Jordan is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states in Article 19: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include

freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice."

**Please support Toujan al-Faisal's right to freedom of expression and call for the charges against her to be dropped by writing to the following members of the Jordanian government.**

**His Majesty King Abdallah bin Hussein, Office of H.M. the King, Royal Palace Amman, Jordan**

**FAX: +962-6-463-4755**

**Prime Minister Ali Abu Al-Ragheb, P.O. Box 80 352, Amman, Jordan FAX: +962-6-464-2520**

**Mr. Faris Nabulsi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, P.O. Box 6040, Amman, Jordan FAX: +962-6-568-0238**

## **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Congress – 14-22 September 2002 – Colombo Sri Lanka**

### **Provisional Programme**

Saturday	14th	Board Meeting / Registratiom
Sunday	15th	Morning - Registration Continues Evening - Informal Get-together at Pre-Congress Dinner
Monday	16th	Morning - Inaugural Session Afternoon - Business Session (Plenary 1) Evening - Congressional Dinner preceded by Cultural Show
Tuesday	17th	Workshops
Wednesday	18th	Business Sessions (Plenary 2, 3 & 4)
Thursday	19th	Seminar
Friday	20th	Morning - Plenary 5 Afternoon - Free Evening - Visit to Project
Saturday	21st	Outing
Sunday	22nd	Final Plenary / Closing Ceremony

Attached are: Registration Form and Accommodation details. These will also be included in the next edition of International Women's News, which will have the formal President's Invitation to Congress. Letters will be sent separately to all Affiliate and Associate organisations.

Details of the Seminar (19 September) will be included in a later newsletter.

Note: In order to participate at Congress all Affiliate and Associate organisations must be financial. This also applies to all Individual members. Dues may be paid to the Treasurer at Congress.

Enquiries: Priscilla Todd [toddsec@netlink.com.au](mailto:toddsec@netlink.com.au)

## **INTERNATIONAL ATTITUDES ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2002**

**Corporate Globalisation and Militarism continue to override Human Rights, Health, Education, Environment**

### **Women's Caucus in Monterrey, Mexico**

The Women's Caucus, comprising representatives from organisations in more than 50 countries worldwide, is alarmed that this meeting on Financing for Development is being used as a venue for subverting development and advancing the militarist goals of the U.S. government's "war on terrorism". As governments and multilateral financial and trade organisations collude here in Monterrey, women are being hemmed in by two forces of fundamentalism: the fundamentalism of the market and religious fundamentalism that have brought the world to a dangerous juncture.

The Monterrey Consensus assumes that the global economic and financial system is functioning well and working for all. The Monterrey Consensus promotes the market as a game in which players are rewarded when they create an environment favourable to the private sector in both North and South. And this final Financing for Development (FfD) meeting has become a playground for the most powerful nation on earth to use aid as a bargaining chip for economic, political and military compliance that will have devastating consequences for human rights, gender equality, and

sustainability. For women, who are 51 percent of the world's population and the majority of its poorest, there can be no such consensus. Women from civil society are excluded from decision making in our countries, in global economic governance, and as full participants at this Conference.

While the world's leaders gather to make token gestures towards poverty eradication, thousands of women, men and children in Africa are dying from AIDS, and millions of children in the poorest countries are dying from preventable diseases.

As heads of government revere market omnipotence, trade liberalisation, and privatisation in the Monterrey Consensus, civil wars, exacerbated by that very system of corporate globalisation, are raging in Burundi, Liberia, the great lakes region of central Africa, and some 30 other countries, according to the UN itself. Furthermore, for millions of people in Argentina, who have lost jobs, savings and pensions, the future is bleak. Male-dominated government budgets follow the U.S lead of more militarisation and less social spending while:

- the daily death toll rises in Palestine;
- millions are directed in new military aid to the Philippines and Colombia;
- the Afghani people are paying for the actions of others as bombs continue falling in their country; and
- new fronts are being sought by those who believe they have the right to decide who is evil and who is not.

The powers that be abandon former regions of conflict such as the Balkans, leaving them impoverished and environmentally damaged, then move on to hunt more "evil-doers" on other fronts in Iraq, Iran and North Korea. Women and men are the "collateral damage" in these conflicts and black, indigenous and ethnically marginalised women pay the highest price.

It is clear from the Monterrey Consensus that the original aim to finance the commitments made by governments in UN development conferences on environment, human rights, population, social development, racism and women has been abandoned. Governments of the North must not use aid as a bargaining chip in pursuing their economic, political and military interests.

Governments of the South must not cave in to pressures to accept aid, trade and investment in exchange for political and military compliance. As women, we will not sacrifice our lives and the lives of our children, our families and our communities for this blood money.

### **An Equitable World is Possible and Necessary**

We demand that our governments hold firm to the commitments they have made in UN conferences and their follow-up processes in Rio, Vienna, Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing, Istanbul and Durban, for the realisation of an equitable, people-centred and gender-sensitive sustainability.

This requires nothing less than:

- democratic global governance;
- binding mechanisms for the full implementation of all human rights;
- equitable redistribution of resources, and
- changes in power relations within and between countries inclusive of women, the poor, and racially and other marginalised groups.

**Women of the world declare: the Monterrey Consensus is not our consensus!**

**Without human rights, there is NO consensus!**

Another world is possible and women are building it! NO to financing war, YES to financing sustainable

development free from conditionalties!

For further information, please contact: NGO FfD Women's Caucus. c/o Joan Ross-Frankson (WEDO) at <joan@wedo.org> or Carol Barton (WICEJ) at <cbarton@nyc.rr.com> FfD, Monterrey, Mexico, documents on <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/> and <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/DocumentsIndex.htm>

### **Lack of Gender Mainstreaming at WSSD Prepcom III : Women's Caucus**

*Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration states that women are critical actors in achieving and maintaining Sustainable Development. Persistent gender inequalities worldwide deprive women of a voice in decision-making that impacts on our development, our lives and on our social, economic and natural*

*environments. Sustainable Development is development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable Development requires actions that fully integrate economic, social, political and environmental factors.*

The goals of Sustainable Development can only be met if all policies and actions are premised on the overarching framework of rights as set out in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), and other human rights conventions, including the Convention on the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as key UN international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol (1997) to the UN Convention on Climate Change. Gender equality is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. Another essential pre-requisite for Sustainable Development is the elimination of militarism and situations of conflict through the establishment of a global culture of peace. The present market-led economic paradigm that has resulted in increased global poverty, which falls disproportionately on women, must be replaced by the paradigm of Sustainable Development.

Women have been taking the lead in prioritising poverty eradication by promoting an integrated approach to Sustainable Development.

From: Rebecca Pearl, WEDO, sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2002

Third Prepcom WSSD: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/prepcom3.html>

## **WORLD BANK ATTITUDE ON STATUS OF WOMEN 2002 An amazing policy turnaround but can the Bank deliver?**

### **World Bank to Rate All Projects for Gender Impact**

Armed with studies showing that equality between men and women improves the economic viability of poor countries, reduces poverty and encourages good governance, the World Bank has decided that all of its projects will be evaluated for their effects on women and girls. The policy, which also calls for the bank to prioritise programs that would equalise opportunities for women in impoverished countries, marks a shift from past approaches, which limited such considerations to specific projects.

At a practical level, the policy also means that bank officials will examine how countries attract investment and will ensure that labour standards and human rights are taken into consideration as the nation develops and implements its programs. If successful, the new strategy will institutionalise the need to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory and that workers are not exploited.

As part of the new focus, the bank's field officers will conduct a "country gender analysis" in every country where the bank operates in order to highlight gender-related barriers to poverty reduction and economic development, such as property ownership, access to financing, civic involvement and educational opportunities. The bank will then factor in these obstacles as it plans future projects in individual countries.

"While the development of a strategy paper does not in any way guarantee the implementation of the strategy, it is an important step forward," said Carolyn Hannan, director of the United Nations' Division for the Advancement of Women. "It is a well thought-out document".

The **gender-mainstreaming strategy** follows the release last year of a landmark World Bank study that quantified the connection between a nation's poverty and the status of its women and determined that barriers prohibiting women from equal access to jobs, education and public resources significantly inhibited a nation's economic viability.

The study's authors established a strong positive correlation between low levels of female involvement in public life and high levels of government corruption. "Whether this means that women are inherently more moral beings than men, I don't know," said Andrew Mason, co-author of the study and a senior economist at the World Bank. More likely, he said, is that **a higher level of women's participation signifies a country that is more open in general, with more transparent government and a more democratic approach.** The study's findings coincided with the bank's acknowledgment that its work will not succeed where governments are characterised by poor oversight, lack of adherence to the rule of law and rampant corruption.



### **Bank's New Policy publicised at Monterrey**

"We know that in countries with good governance and strong policies, aid can make an enormous difference. Yet we know too that corruption, bad policies and weak governance will make financial aid ineffective and even counterproductive," World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn told participants at the Monterrey gathering, according to the Washington Post. "There is a growing interest in good governance," Mason said. "It is not coincidental that people are taking our findings from the study seriously now. The fact that we and others have found strong correlation between female participation and good governance provides an entry point for the bank to promote female participation."

Still, women's advocates remain concerned about what they say is a disconnect between bank investment policies and its work in the social reform arena.

By Ann Moline – Wenews correspondent, who is a freelance writer in Alexandria, Va.

For more information: Women's EDGE: - <http://www.womensedge.org>

World Bank GenderNet: - <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>

United Nations WomenWatch: - <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS UNDER THREAT**

### **No prizes for naming World Leaders who actively oppose Family Planning**

#### **Population Resources Fall Short**

A recent edition of POPLINE, published bi-monthly by the Population Institute, titles and states Resources available for reproductive health and population programs are well below the \$17 billion as the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) determined would be necessary by the year 2000. Developing countries are providing most of their share of needed resources, but support from donor nations is less than half of the \$5.7 billion called for in 2000, the UN Population Fund reports.

Shortfalls in population program resources have started to affect both data collection and research efforts required for countries to assess the impact of development policies, monitor progress and prioritise projects. Estimates of resources needed to expand reproductive health services reflect projected increases in contraceptive demand. These were based on the growing number of people of reproductive age and continued reductions in unmet need - the number of women and couples who wish to delay or prevent a birth but are not using family planning.

See <http://www.Populationinstitute.org>

#### **Gender Information from the UN**

Here you can access women and gender information available from the UN system. The brief introduction states the policy approach to women and girls and highlights activities on UN Programmes and Specialised Agencies on <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/un/unagency.htm>

#### **European Women's Lobby**

News from the European Women's Lobby is to be found on <http://www.womenlobby.org> and <http://www.eurosur.org/wide> <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/index.html>

#### **Dates of Conferences and Events, Documents**

4 – 15 March CSW, New York, documents on <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/46sess.htm>

Resolutions and Decisions from the 46th CSW session can be found on website at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/46sess.htm#resolutions>

18 March – 26 April, Geneva, 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights 2002, documents on

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/58chr/58main.htm> and

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/58chr/advandocs.htm>

8 - 12 April Madrid, Second World Assembly on Ageing: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/>

To subscribe to the Ageing Assembly Listserv e-mail: [ageingassembly-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ageingassembly-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

8 – 19 April New York, Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Documents on:

- <http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/WMD/NPT/2005/index.html>
- 5 – 7 May Children’s Forum
- 8 - 10 May Special Session on Children, New York, <http://www.unicef.org/specialsession>  
NGO information can be found on the NGO Committee on UNICEF site  
<http://www.ngosatunicef.org/>
- 9 – 11 May First International Seminar on Women’s Safety Montreal, Canada.  
Website: <http://www.femmesetvilles.org/en/>
- 30 May - 1 June Active Older people, Turin, Italy [http:// www.eurag-europe.org](http://www.eurag-europe.org)
- 10-13 June World Food Summit: FAO in Rome ; <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit>
- 24-28 June Social Development in the Third Millenium, Rotterdam, the Netherlands,  
[http:// www.nizw.nl/icsw2002](http://www.nizw.nl/icsw2002)
- 21-26 July Women’s World 2000 Conference in Uganda  
Website: [www.makereac.ug/womenstudies](http://www.makereac.ug/womenstudies) e-mail: [gendermu@africaonline.co.ug](mailto:gendermu@africaonline.co.ug)
- 12-16 Aug. International Women and Health Meeting in Toronto, Canada on sexual and reproductive rights, violence against women, environment and health.  
Website: <http://www.iwhm-rifs.org>
- 2-11 Sep. Rio + 10 in Johannesburg, South Africa, <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>  
The World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre just outside Johannesburg. The NGO FORUM will be held at the Gallagher Estate near the Sandton Convention Centre.  
Website: <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/default.htm>
- 3 – 6 October Guadalajara, Mexico, ‘Reinventing Globalisation’ by the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID). Website <http://www.awid.org>

### **World Summit on the Information Society**

10 – 12 December, Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005.

The World Summit on the Information Society will take place in two phases: in Geneva in December 2003, with a follow-up in Tunis in 2005. See <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

Information for NGOs and civil society is available at: <http://www.geneva2003.org/>

To register for the summit, visit: <http://www.geneva2003.org/home/index01.htm>

The first PrepCom will take place July 1-5 in Geneva. Rules for the participation of civil society will be adopted at this time. Information on the UN ICT Task Force can be found at:

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

=====Note  
: to avoid misunderstanding, we always send the IAW Newsletter twice, 1) in the body of the e-mail, and 2) as an attachment, saved in Word 6.0/95. Both have exactly the same content. The only difference is, that the attachment has a better lay-out, so it will be easy for Affiliates to copy it and send it by post to IAW members without e-mail.

NB: We invite you to redistribute this Newsletter to IAW members without an e-mail address. Also, please advise us if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, and in that case: please be so kind to contact Pat Richardson.

=====International Alliance of Women / Alliance Internationale des Femmes

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