

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

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



**Equal  
Rights**

**IAW News Flash October 2002, Nr. 2**

*Dear IAW members,*

*Attached to this News Flash are: a report from Norway, a request of IAW member Mbatho Ramagoshi and a list with names of the new IAW Board.*

*Included in this Flash are also some URLs of websites which are well worth visiting.*

*We recently had some trouble caused by the Bugbear, a nasty virus. If you did not get the October News Flash nr. 1, please let us know at <iaw.membership@tsn.cc> or <joke.sebus@inter.nl.net>*

**Discord deepens over Iraq resolution**

A general debate on Iraq opened on Wednesday the 16th at the United Nations in New York. Iraq has agreed to the inspectors' return. Russia says the United States must make changes to a draft United Nations resolution threatening force against Iraq. Moscow's view has been backed by the French. If a Security Council resolution is to pass, it must avoid a veto from any of the permanent members - the US, Russia, France, Britain and China.

Meanwhile the huge bomblast in Bali last weekend has left many dead and badly injured and our sympathy goes to all the victims and their families. How is the world and, in particular, the UN and the US reacting to this and how will it affect the debate on Iraq?

**NGOs call on the United Nations for a WCW 2005**

At the UN NGOs call for the Fifth World Conference on Women, a WCW 2005 to meet the needs of women arising from new global trends, related in particular to economic globalisation, trade, new technologies, armed conflicts and the threats posed by HIV/AIDS.

The NGOs call for the governments to reconfirm their commitment to the Beijing PfA and to develop further strategies to meet the new and emerging issues that are of great concern for women.

**WILPF, General Assembly General Debate Excerpts**

During the General Assembly General Debates, from September 12th-20th, the WILPF UN Office has been monitoring the speeches and compiling excerpts from the statements on a variety of issues.

Below are links to some of the compiled excerpts from

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/genass/gaindex.html>

For example, excerpts about: Women and Gender, Afghanistan, Conflict prevention, Human security, International Criminal Court, Iraq, Israel and Palestine, Terrorism, Disarmament. For a list of women who spoke (16 of 189 speakers), see: <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/genass/Speakerswomen57.html>

**Gender Related Violence is Global**

Up to 70% of female murder victims worldwide are killed by their male companions and as many as one-third of girls are forced into their first sexual experience, according to a World Health Organisation report, which urged countries to no longer treat violence solely as a "law and order issues". Now, armed with data on the extent of the problem and nine recommendations to address it, the World Health Organisation will conduct an 18-month violence-prevention campaign.

WHO Report, 6.10.02. Website: [http://www5.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/main.cfm?s=0009](http://www5.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/main.cfm?s=0009)

**Violence Against Women, November 25 – December 10, 2002**

*16-days of Activism is a period that is used to create a solidarity movement that raises awareness around gender-based violence as a human rights abuse.*

This year's campaign activities explore the **intersection** of culture or religion and violence against women and children. In **all** regions of the world, culture or religion has been used by individuals and institutions to support beliefs, norms, practices and institutions that legitimise and perpetuate violence against women and children. Although culture is still not an easy word to define; we can begin by

understanding that culture relates to shared patterns such as values, attitudes, beliefs, rituals, goals and behaviours. These patterns can be seen in **all** societies; members of communities can share similar cultural practices, times of war can invoke certain attitudes and practices etc. However, it is important to remember that culture is not static; it is always changing. (**See the attachment for more information**).

Please return a completed list to IAW member Ms M Ramagoshi before or on 4 November 2002.

Fax: 012-312 5218, email: ramagoshi.m@doe.gov.za

### **CONGO on Johannesburg**

Two documents, the "Final declaration" and "Programme of Action" are available on the CONGO website <http://www.congo.org> or directly on the following page

<http://www.congo.org/ngomeet/rio10.htm>