

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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Reports from Affiliates and Associates

COMPILED BY SECRETARY GENERAL LENE PIND

# Reports for International Meeting 2009

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## Women into Decision-Making

### Report of President Rosy Weiss

#### **Développements depuis novembre 2006, la dernière réunion du Comité International de l'A.I.F., Paris.**

Sur invitation de la All-India Women's Conference, notre 34<sup>ième</sup> Congrès s'est tenu à Delhi en octobre 2007. C'était une rencontre fort bien organisée et intéressante qui restera engravée dans la mémoire de toutes celles qui ont eu la chance d'y participer. 5 nouvelles organisations membre de l'Asie, de l'Afrique et de l'Europe sont venues compléter nos rangs. Je vous invite de consulter les 5 résolutions substantielles et le programme d'action des années 2008 à 2010 sur notre site internet [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org). Les Commissions techniques ont été établies selon les grands chapitres du nouveau programme d'action est sont présidées par les Mmabatho Ramagoshi (élimination de violence), Margret Steinarsdóttir (justice et droits humains), Susanne Riveles (paix), Jessica Kehl-Lauff (démocratie) et Gudrun Haupter (santé). Un nouveau Bureau a été élu et nous avons maintenant une nouvelle trésorière, Rakesh Dhawan, Inde, et une nouvelle secrétaire générale, Lene Pind, Danemark. Quant à moi, j'ai eu l'honneur d'être réélue présidente pour une seconde période d'office.

La réunion du Bureau s'est tenue à La Hague du 4 au 8 octobre dans une atmosphère typiquement hollandaise: excellente organisation et travail concentré, respectueux et amical. Bien des actions de l'A.I.F. durant les mois précédants ont été inspirées par les fructueux débats que nous avons eu à Scheveningen et les présentations qui nous ont été offertes au Palais de la Paix à La Hague et .... à Amsterdam.

Avant d'aller au Pays-Bas, j'ai fait un détour à Londres pour contacter les services de la banque Barclays ou l'Alliance a ses deux plus importants comptes bancaires. En compagnie de Helen Self j'ai ensuite visité les archives de l'Alliance qui se trouvent à la bibliothèque de l'Université de Manchester. Jointe pas nos amies australiennes en stop-over vers La Hague nous avons pu visiter la Women's Library avec là aussi une partie des archives de l'Alliance, la présidente de la Women's National Commission et répondre à une invitation de la Sri Lanka Women's Association in the UK.

Consciente de ma promesse faite à Freiburg de visiter le plus grand nombre d'organisations membre que possible, je suis allée en Islande pour participer à une rencontre sur la prostitution et à Athènes pour une conférence sur le harcèlement sexuel au travail. J'ai représenté l'Alliance à la grande conférence commémorant le 60<sup>ième</sup> anniversaire de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de la Personne à Paris, au Forum Global "établir confiance aux gouvernements" à Vienne et aux sessions annuelles de la Commission de la Condition de la Femme des Nations Unies à New York. Et j'ai répondu positivement à l'invitation du Deutsche Frauenring de fêter avec elles le 60<sup>ième</sup> anniversaire de leur organisation le 9 octobre 2009.

Grâce au travail excellent fait par toutes les dignitaires, titulaires et membres, la visibilité de l'Alliance et son prestige se sont améliorés considérablement. Et j'en suis très fière. Je veux que l'Alliance et ses membres sont vus comme organisations de marque, de l'échelle locale jusqu'au plan international, par l'excellence et la manière collégiale dans laquelle nous travaillons, par la variété des compétences substantielles que nous pouvons offrir, par l'expertise considérable dont nous disposons parmi nos membres et par leur travail pratique sur le terrain. Participation, compétence, expertise pratique, voilà nos bases qui guident notre présence consultative dans le système des Nations Unies

Rosy Weiss  
May 2009



**Visit to IAW archives in Amsterdam during Board Meeting 2009**  
(photo: Alison Brown)

## Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups, Cameroon

Name: Azoadam Rebecca Juga

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Associate: Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups (BAWUFAG)

Date: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Highlights (maximum 3 points)

1. Literacy program.
2. Violence on women and Youth.
3. Micro- finance /Income generating Activities/Farming system.

BAWUFAG has been working for the past six years to foster the human rights of women and youths with a focus on the girl child. We have had successes and obstacles but have continued to be positive in our approach to situations. Because we are operating some adult literacy centre, our program every year starts from September. This year started with the opening of the centre in September with. By the end of January we acquired some text books and writing tools for the centre and so the number of students increased from 60 to 88 students.



*Members receive some books and equipment.*

We have been making a lot of endeavors in this area of the promotion of the rights of women and the girl child, specially the school dropout

In addition to helping them read and write and in order to develop their lives, we have extended the program with knitting and an embroidery department to help them develop on life skill activities. For information dissemination, we have acquired two computers for now and so decided to enroll some of our youths in a training centre with the two computers with the intention of expanding the program in future to help the women in their quest for information.





*Youths in taking computer lessons*

Presently, we are operating three adult literacy centers; one in Bali center, another in Mantum and another in Nzah.



*The girls during embroidery lessons*

In the area of micro finance we were able to give out money to women to promote their little income generating activities to develop though very meagre. Some got money and cultivated their farms and paid back after selling their crops. We continued in this area by constantly doing repairs on their cassava processing mills to see that it is in good shape as it has helped relieve them from the burden of grating the cassava using their hands and straining just to get little output at the end. Still to improve on their income level, we plan to deviate from the use of artificial manure which is more expensive despite its health hazard, for organic agriculture. In this plan, we are looking forward to see how we can acquire funds to put in place either a poultry farm, a pig farm, or a goat farm or cattle to help us build a stable for the production of natural manure which will enable us to proceed with organic agriculture. We believe it is important to the lives of the women, children and members of the community. To keep them healthy and strong in their activities, we have engaged our district medical officer in our program and he gives health talk to the women every month and this has

created a lot of health awareness for the women. We have also hired a veterinary officer to give training on livestock and take care of their animals every month and whenever they need his attention. The women attend community farmers meetings organized by the delegate of agriculture and rural Development. Five of our women have been voted as presidents in their quarter meetings; to show that they are already portraying awareness.

In the area of violence, we work in collaboration with the ministry of women's affairs and we often have workshops on violence against women and children. We still need to give more training in this area as women in rural areas continue to carry most of the family burden and some still face maltreatment from their in-laws in the death of a husband. Young girls are randomly affected by HIV-Aids due to poverty because they have to be used by men who are viable. We also still need lots of sensitization and training in this area because this breaks down the family both financially and emotionally. On this note, we regret for what is happening in Pakistan concerning our girls. We just have to continue to pray to support the work of IAW in attempt to avert the situation as well as in other parts of the world.

**Problems:** For the literacy program which I know IAW has an interest in the education of women and girls, we lack accommodation. We do not yet have money to construct a structure for these women and girls although we have acquired a piece of land already for that purpose. In the area of violence for women and children, we still need to provide more training to both the men, women and children to avert these situations. In the area of micro finance and income generating activities, we are short of finance to satisfy most of the women in their various activities. We also need a processing mill for our staple food processing which is corn and finally for our conceived project on organic agriculture.

I would not take much of your precious time in enumerating all our problems because I know that wherever there is a solution, IAW will always keep us informed. We love you all and wish you a great and joyous moment during the deliberations.

Let me end by announcing to the assembly that we ended last year as one of the laureates of WWSF for women's creativity in Rural life. We wish to acknowledge our appreciation to Rosy Weiss and her team for recommending us to have earned this prestigious award. May we continue to work together for the promotion of the rights and equality of our women and children all over the world.

Long live BAWUFAG

Long live International Alliance of Women.

# La Colombe, TOGO

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Date:

## Highlights

### Education

En matière d'éducation l'ONG La Colombe investit dans l'amélioration des infrastructures scolaires et à l'accès des enfants à l'école surtout l'école primaire. En matière d'infrastructure scolaires, l'ONG a construit trois bâtiments scolaires dans la préfecture de Vo, en vue de rendre attrayant l'école et surtout de rendre les lieux plus sécurisant pour les élèves et les enseignants. *(Financement Ambassade du Japon)*

Concernant la scolarisation, l'ONG prend en charge 100 orphelins pour 6 ans afin qu'il obtiennent le diplôme de base.

Cinquante filles et cinquante garçons dont l'âge est compris entre 5 et 15 ans sont inscrits à l'école primaire. Ils bénéficient tous de services tels que; kit scolaire composé de fournitures, de sac d'écolier, d'habit scolaire. Un fonds symbolique de 8 euros pour la santé, 15 euros pour le repas du matin à l'école, une lampe et du pétrole pour les études la nuit à la maison, une natte pour couchette, une moustiquaire, chaussures. *(Financement, Rotary club de Lomé et de Apt Cavaillon en France)*

*Au niveau national, l'école est devenue gratuite à l'école primaire. Les droits d'accès appelés frais scolaires ne sont plus versés. Mais les autres frais sont à la charge des parents. (habillement, fournitures scolaires, livres).*

### II-Violence

Afin de lutter contre les violences à l'égard des femmes y compris la fille, l'ONG a mené des campagnes de sensibilisation dans trois préfectures de Vo, des Lacs et de Yoto au sud du Togo. Des émissions radiophoniques sont également animées sur trois radios locales dans les préfectures. Les thèmes portent sur les droits de l'enfant, les droits de la femme, la lutte contre les violences à l'égard des femmes.

Les sensibilisations de masse et de porte à porte sont organisées par des para juristes formés par l'ONG.

Au cours de l'année 2008, les sensibilisations en focus groupe et de porte à porte ont touché 3000 personnes dont 2300 femmes.

La Colombe est de plus en plus sollicitée pour des conseils et des orientations en matière de violences exercées sur les femmes et filles (viol, coups et blessures, etc..), le trafic et la maltraitance des enfants.

Les chefs traditionnels (chefs de villages) formés par l'ONG La Colombe ont eu à infliger des sanctions aux auteurs de violences à l'égard des femmes dans des villages selon la loi coutumière. Les cas de violence sont de plus en plus dénoncés soit à la justice, soit aux services de police.

Trente et un cas ont été dénoncés et les auteurs sont punis conformément à la loi.

*(Financement « Chance de vivre » et Bröt für die welt en Allemagne)*

*Pour faciliter la dénonciation des cas de violence, de viol, d'exploitation des enfants, « une verte »*

*Qui est un téléphone gratuit, a été installé à Lomé par le Ministère de la promotion de*



*la femme en charge de l'Enfant et des Personnes Agées.*

### **III. Pauvreté, sécurité alimentaire et pouvoir économique**

Afin d'aider les filles et femmes à sortir de la pauvreté, l'ONG La Colombe a installé un centre d'apprentissage pour les métiers de couture et de coiffure à Vo koutimé dans la préfecture de Vo depuis 1997. Les filles formées en trois ans, obtiennent un certificat de fin d'apprentissage et travaillent à leur propre compte. Depuis 10 ans, plus de 400 filles ont été formées.

Une évaluation rapide sur 100 filles au cours de l'année a permis de constater que: Toutes les filles formées exercent leur métier appris. Elles arrivent à épargner dans une institution de micro finance ou dans les caisses traditionnelles d'épargne telles; ADAKAVI, YES-YES, TONTINE, IDH, MUTUELLE KEKELI/SOCODEVI. Le montant d'épargne par semaine est compris entre 2 et 10 euros.

100% se prennent en charge et participent aux dépenses familiales

70% prennent en charge la scolarisation d'au moins un petit frère ou une petite sœur

50 % participent aux dépenses de nourriture de leurs parents géniteurs

20% se prennent totalement en charge

100% ont vu leur relation sur le plan familial et conjugal s'améliorer

100% exercent une activité économique

100% ne sont plus des personnes vulnérables et ont échappé au phénomène du trafic de personnes. *Financement Brot für di welt*

#### **Remarque:**

*Le VIH/SIDA est un thème transversal à tous nos programmes. C'est ainsi que des pairs éducateurs formés par l'ONG, font de la sensibilisation et de la distribution des préservatifs.*

## ***Mmbatho Foundation for Women's Development, South Africa***

**Name:** Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development

**Email:** [mmabatho1@msn.com](mailto:mmabatho1@msn.com)

**Associate Date:** 04 May 2009

### **Highlights**

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Empowerment of the girl-child
3. Violence against women and HIV and AIDS

### **Report:**

#### **Leamogetswe Children's home**

This is an orphanage that the Foundation has adopted. For the past year with regards to the Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the Foundation has provided food parcels to the orphanage. During December holidays the foundation made a Christmas Party for the children. Furthermore, it gave them clothes that were provided by members and our member from Geneva also supported the Orphanage by bringing clothes from Geneva.

The Foundation also secures Legal assistance for the orphanage from the South African Women Lawyers that provides free service to the civil society.

#### **The Empowerment of the Girl-Child**

The Foundation has been involved in the empowerment of Girl Children in the preparation for national elections that took place at the end of April. We organized intergenerational dialogues for mothers and daughters to discuss the role of women in decision making and the importance of voting for the youth as most of the young girls were going to be voting for the first time.

There were also dialogues for young women on violence against women to equip them for relationships as some of them found themselves in these relationships.

#### **To combat HIV and AIDS**

The Foundation serve in the Women Against AIDS Forum and have held campaigns to raise awareness on the issue and to highlight the relationship between HIV and AIDS and violence against women

#### **Preparation for Congress in 2010**

The Foundation is busy with the preparations for the Congress in 2010. The Congress is linked with the 16Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which will be from 22-26 November 2010 and the Board meeting to be held on the 27 November 2010

# Women's Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe

**Name:** Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust **Email:** [womenscomfortcorner@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:womenscomfortcorner@yahoo.co.uk)

**Date:** 29 April, 2009

Highlights:

1. Political Rights
2. Domestic Violence
3. Vagina Tightening Herbs and Virginity Testing



## **POLITICAL RIGHTS**

After becoming a victim of sexual harassment in 1998 The Founding Director Ms Rita Marque Lunga-Mbatha founded Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust in Bulawayo, ZIMBABWE, a non profit organisation dedicated to campaign against sexual violence and sexual harassment as well as discrimination against women and children by encouraging legal reform, spreading awareness of women rights and ensuring that perpetrators of gender violence are brought to justice and are held accountable for their actions and that their victims are not re-victimised. We also have a passion to provide care for the vulnerable in general particularly the aged and physically impaired/disabled.

The Norwegian People's AID (Zimbabwe Programme) and The Women's Trust conducted a national Women Can Do It! Training of Trainers workshop in which our Founding Director was a participant and was trained as a Community Facilitator. We conducted ten ward meetings in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe the main objective was to encourage women to vote in the elections. The **Women Can Do It! Campaign** is a Women's Empowerment Programme designed to develop women's leadership skills and build their personal empowerment to enable them to fully engage with decision-making processes from grassroots levels to National Level.

Through grassroots political action, Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust contributed in increasing women's vote and managed significantly to change the face of Parliament in April 2008.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Women's Comfort Corner Trust study sought to investigate the impact and discrimination on women suffering from domestic violence by investigating the impact of violence and HIV/AIDS on livelihoods, levels of domestic violence in general, their experience of disclosure to others their views on how stigma can be alleviated in the country. Background information on domestic violence and HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination were researched. Domestic violence is worsened by cultural norms that make women accept violence as an inevitable consequence in the home. A qualitative research design using the Case Study approach guided the researcher in data collection and analysis. The participants comprised of 500 women.

The Internet, Questionnaire and Standardised Open Ended were used as data collection instruments. The findings of the impact of stigma revealed that stigma demobilises women to come forward and get post-exposure prophylaxis, protection is not a choice where women are forced into sex and thus do not have control over use

of condoms, is exposed to further re-infection this prevents advocacy of civil society to fight the HIV pandemic.

The research was mainly intended to provide information to that would assist victims of violence and HIV positive women, AIDS Service Organisations and Policy Makers to advocate for sensitisation of duty bearers to policies and laws relating to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and HIV/AIDS. Rita's abstract entitled "Domestic Violence" has been selected for presentation as Electronic Poster at the 5<sup>th</sup> IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention in Cape Town which will be held from 19 – 22 July 2009.

## **MDG 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

### **VAGINA TIGHTENING HERBS, VIRGINITY TESTING**

Given the pervasiveness of injustice and denial of rights, a willingness to confront remains necessary. Human rights add a stronger focus on empowerment, participation and accountability which are all key components of reducing sexual assault against women and girls. Much needs to be done in terms of awareness of gender issues. We are currently raising awareness of dangers associated vagina tightening herbs and virginity testing, highlighting human rights aspects because it subjects women and girls to a humiliating practice of virginity testing and exposes them to HIV/AIDS. Offenders claim its culture related.

Women resort to using traditional medicine to tighten the vaginal muscle and enhance the quality of sex. The following is mostly used to achieve their objectives, plain yoghurt, traditional herbs, tissue/newspapers, coarse salt, soap and ice blocks waged between cotton wool. Women use the latter substances to cause their vaginas to be hot, tight and dry. Men fuel the practice because they claim that when women are lubricated they are loose. The danger of dry sex is that if one uses a condom which is not lubricated it may break and vaginal inflammation, abrasion and peeling skin may increase transmission of HIV/AIDS. These herbs are sadly used for male and not female pleasure. Most women in the rural areas and cities use the vagina tightening herbs. This inhibits women's control over their bodies and increase vulnerability to HIV infection and the medication may cause cancer. Of concern is that women also drink the concoction which is purported to make their bodies feel warmer than usual to excite their partners.

Virginity testing is meant to ascertain girl's sexual purity. Our organisation has held workshops in the rural areas to help reduce and eventually eliminate this evil practice. Some girls have attempted suicide because of shame. In some instances the hymen may have broken during sports activities. There is also widespread concern about privacy rights and the inadequacy of the tests.

In the rural areas we intend to partner with the Chiefs to eradicate the practice, we will also be meeting with Zimbabwe Traditional Healers Association. This is an ongoing exercise which should be completed by August 2009.

## Association pour le Planning Familial et l'Epanouissement de la Femme (APFEF), MALI

<b>Name:</b> APFEF	<b>Email:</b>
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<b>Associate:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Date:</b> February 06, 2009	
<b>Highlights (maximum 3 points)</b> preferably relating to the IAW Action Programme, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. health sector (Planning Familial, lutte contre Excision, VIH/SIDA, Fistules, Paludisme</li> <li>2. education sector (alphabetisation des femmes et enfants surtout jeunes filles, coupe couture pour les jeunes filles</li> <li>3. Reboisement, Activités Generatrices de Revenus pour les Femmes</li> </ol>	

<p>Zones d'intervention au Mali :</p> <p>CERCLE DE DIOILA (COMMUNE DE KILIDOUYOU), CERCLE DE KATI, CERCLE DE KANGABA, CERCLE DE YANFOLILA, REGION DE SEGOU (SAN ET COMMUNE DE MAFOUNE, ORO) REGION DE MOPTI ( 3 VILLAGES : NEMEDDAGA, BARGONDAGA ET MADINA/TONGORONKO), REGION DE KAYES</p> <p>Objectifs (Objectif spécifiques) :</p> <p>ALPHABETISATION DES FEMMES ET ENFANTS, SANTE DE LA REPRODUCTION, PF, ACTIVITES GENERATRICES DES FEMMES AGR, REBOISEMENT DANS LES VILLAGES D'INTERVENTION, DON DE GRILLAGE POUR LE MARAICHAGE DES FEMMES DANS LES ZONES D'INTERVENTION (BANCO), FORMATION DES FEMMES A TRAVERS NOTRE PARTENAIRE LE FAFPA, L'AMADER, COOPERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE ET LE CNREF, ASSOCIATION 'FEMMES DE DEMAIN' FRANCE, ASSOCIATION 'VIVENTLESFEMMES' EN FRANCE, A TRAVERS L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES' AIF, DEFENSE DES DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET DE LA FEMME, LUTTE CONTRE LA VIOLENCE SUR LES ENFANTS (MARIAGE PRECOCE, L'EXCISION, DROIT A L'EDUCATION, CED, CAFE etc...</p> <p>Activités phares réalisées par l'Association en 2008 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formation en alphabétisation fonctionnelle liée au maraîchage dans la commune de kilidougou financé par la coopération luxembourgeoise et le CNREF (actuellement 6 centres alpha sont fonctionnels après le projet)</li> <li>- 8 mars 06 remise de don au csref de dioila, un lit médicalisé pour la salle d'opération du csref, deux ordinateurs aux 2 mairies du cercles de dioila (la commune de wacoro et de kaladougou) en vue de l'enregistrement des naissances et de plusieurs dons en appareils médicaux (tensionmètre, glucomètre, chaise percée pour grands malades) don remise par la partenaire française « Femmes de Demain » au cercle de dioila, dont je suis membre du CA en Europe</li> <li>- Octobre 2008, sur invitation de l'association française 'Viventlesfemmes' dont je suis également membre du CA, j'ai été invitée officiellement à participer au « Colloque sur le Développement Durable à l'International » sous la haute présidence du Ministre d'Etat Français SEM Jean Louis Borloo, Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Aménagement du Territoire, du Développement Durable et de l'Environnement ; avec qui j'ai eu des entretiens très fructueux, cette conférence a eu la participation par vidéoconférence de 3 ministres d'Etat</li> </ul>
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canadiens et beaucoup d'éminentes personnalités sur le Toit de la Grande Arche de la Défense à Paris ;

- Activité de sensibilisation des habitants de la commune de kilidougou pour la campagne d'Education Civique financé par l'USAID, mise en place et équipement en maillots et ballons de foot de 11 équipes de football pour les jeunes de la commune de kilidougou en vue de leur épanouissement personnel ;
- Remise par l'ONG Islamic Relief qui est en partenariat avec l'APFEF de deux bœufs pour la fête de Ramadam et tabaski durant 2 années successives, permettant aux démunis de bien fêter ces fêtes très importantes ;
- En partenariat avec le FAFPA, formation de 30 femmes APFEF du quartier Yirimadio en savonnerie, de 30 femmes de Kati Farada en agroalimentaire, en formation qualifiante coupe et couture de 30 jeunes filles de Banankabougou sema, de Zerni, de Yirimadio au Centremaridjénarié pour une durée de 3ans
- En partenariat avec le FAFPA, formation de 171 personnes à Oro, dans la commune de Mafouné, Cercle de Tominian, Région de Ségou en maraichage, apiculture, embouche et culture de Moringa Oléifera
- En partenariat avec l'AMADER, reboisement de 10 hectares en essences forestières dans la commune de Banco, cercle de Dioila
- 8mars 2008, sous la haute présidence de la présidente de l'APFEF, reboisement sur fonds propres de 80 pieds de cocotiers tout au long des 759 logements sociaux de yirimadio pour marquer l'évènement de la fête des femmes ; et organisation d'une coupe de football pour les enfants des 759 lots de yirimadio ensuite d'une course de fonds sur 800 m pour ces mêmes enfants en vue de leur épanouissement personnel.
- En partenariat avec le PNA, remise de 10 rouleaux de grillage et de semences aux groupements féminins de Banco pour les activités de maraichage
- formation des femmes de Yirimadio 759 logements sociaux, en agroalimentaire 'soumbala à partir de l'arachide, condiment traditionnel très apprécié par la population malienne, préparation de sirop à partir de nos fruits locaux, vitamalt pour nutrition enfants, etc...)
- Formation des femmes de dougoulakoro, commune de baguineda en alphabétisation méthode samogoya, et remise de cartons d'habits lors de la fête du 8 mars à dougoulakro par la présidente de l'APFEF
- Lancement du projet d'alphabétisation liée a la santé dans trois villages de la région de Mopti (Nemededaga, Bargondaga, Madina/Tongoronko avec l'achat d'une pinasse médicalisée servant de lieu de consultation pour les habitants des trois villages, et un programme d'alphabétisation de 150 enfants et 150 femmes par trimestre pour lesdits villages, avec le recrutement de 7 personnes



dont un docteur sur la pinasse, lancement effectué récemment en présence du Gouverneur de la Région de Mopti sur 5 ans financé par l'ONG AUTRICHIENNE, partenaire de l'APFEF

### **Abbreviated ENGLISH VERSION**

Intervention areas in Mali :

DISTRICT OF DIOILA (COMMUNITY OF KILIDOUYOU), DISTRICT OF KATI, DISTRICT OF KANGABA, DISTRICT OF YANFOLILA, SEGOU REGION (SAN AND COMMUNITY OF MAFOUNE, ORO) MOPTI REGION ( 3 VILLAGES : NEMEDDAGA, BARGONDAGA ET MADINA/TONGORONKO), KAYES REGION

Goals and objectifs :

LITERACY COURSES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, TREE PLANTING IN THE AREAS OF INTERVENTION, TRAINING OF WOMEN IN COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS FAFPA AMADER COOPERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE AND CNREF, "FEMMES DE DEMAIN" AND "VIVENT LES FEMMES" FRANCE, INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN, AIF, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (EARLY MARRIAGE FMG RIGHT TO EDUCATION etc. )

Activities 2008 :

- Literacy training in connection with vegetable gardening in the Kilidougou Community financed by Coopération Luxembourgeoise and CNREF (6 training centres operational)
- October 2008, invitation by 'Viventlesfemmes' to participate in a conference on international sustainable development in the Grande Arche de la Défense in Paris
- Sensibilisation campagne of the inhabitants of the Kilidougou Community for civic education, financed by USAID
- In partnership with FAFPA, training of 30 women of the Yirimadio District in soap-works, of 30 women of Kati Farada in agro-nutrition and 30 girls of Banankabougou sema, Zerni and Yirimadio in dressmaking
- In Oro, in partnership with FAFPA, training of 171 persons vegetable gardening, bee-keeping, cattle-breeding and the culture of the Moringa Oléifera tree.
- In partnership with AMADER, tree planting in the Banco Community, Diolia District
- 8 Mars 2008, coconut tree planting funded by APFEF around 759 social homes at Yirimadio honoring International Women's Day and organisation of a soccer play for the children of Yirimadio
- In partnership with PNA, distribution of seeds for vegetable gardening to women's groups in Banco
- Training of the women of Yirimadio in agro-nutrition on the basis of seasoning with peanut, preparation of sirup from local fruits, vitamalt for baby food
- Literacy training of the women of Dougoulakoro, Baguineda Community and distribution of clothings on 8 March in presence of the APFEF President
- Start of a literacy training project of 5 years tied up to health sensibilisation in three villages in the region of Mopti with the purchase of a small construction for medical exams for the inhabitants, the hiring of 7 persons and one medical doctor for the medical examinations as well as a literacy programme of 4 months for 150 children and 150 women. .

# Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité, Burkina Faso

Name : Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité E-mail :

[secaouaga2005@yahoo.fr](mailto:secaouaga2005@yahoo.fr)

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Date :30/04/09

## Highlights

- 1. Programme de promotion des droits des femmes et des jeunes filles en milieu rural**
- 2. Programme d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire dans la province du Boulkiemdé**
- 3. Programme de Promotion des Droits des Femmes âgées et leurs accès aux services sociaux de base au Burkina Faso.**

## Report

Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité (PF/DS) est une organisation non gouvernementale féminine membre de l'AIF créée en 1982 par un groupe de femmes. L'objectif de Promo-Femmes est la promotion et le plein épanouissement de la femme et de la jeune fille au Burkina Faso. PF/DS a développé des programmes de développement pour améliorer les conditions de vie et les droits des femmes au Burkina Faso. Ces différents programmes entre en droite ligne du CEDAW, de la plateforme d'action de Beijing, du plan d'action de l'AIF et des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

### **1. Programme de promotion des droits des femmes et des jeunes filles en milieu rural**

Le programme qui a concerné soixante (60) villages de quatre (04) provinces avait pour objectif de promouvoir les droits humains et instaurer une culture démocratique au sein des femmes et des jeunes filles en milieu rural.

La mise en œuvre du programme qui a duré dix huit (18) mois a permis d'informer et de sensibiliser 10840 personnes dans les villages concernés à travers des animations de groupes, des théâtres forums et des projections vidéo grand public suivis de débats. Soixante (60) animatrices endogènes ont été formées sur différents thèmes notamment le code des personnes et de la famille du Burkina Faso la convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de violences à l'égard des femmes et les droits des enfants. Ces animatrices endogènes ont réalisées chacune, douze (12) séances d'animation qui ont permis de former 600 jeunes filles des villages concernés sur leurs droits.

A l'issue du programme, vingt (20) femmes bénéficiaires ont été élues conseillères de leur village au sein des communes rurales, six (06) d'entre elles sont adjointes au maire et une maire. Deux mille (2000) guides sur les droits de la famille et sur les droits de l'enfant ont été édités et distribués aux femmes. Soixante (60) agents des forces de l'ordre et enseignants de la zone ont été formés. Les commissariats de police de la zone ont enregistré une baisse de 50% des plaintes liées aux violences faites aux femmes et aux jeunes filles.

Le programme a été réalisé grâce à l'appui financier de l'Union Européenne à travers le fonds d'appui à l'état de droit (FAED).

## **2. Programme d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire dans la province du Boulkiemdé**

Le programme d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire dans la province du Boulkiemdé a pour objectif de contribuer à améliorer la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle des ménages démunis du milieu rural par l'utilisation de technologies appropriées et innovantes. Trois ans après le début de la phase pilote, les quatre cent (400) ménages identifiés parmi les plus pauvres de vingt (20) villages ont connu une amélioration notable de leur condition de vie et surtout une plus grande couverture de leurs besoins grâce à la mise en œuvre des activités.

Les quatre cent (400) ménages ont pu améliorer leurs productivités et leurs rendements agricole grâce à la réhabilitation de 400 ha de champs soit un hectare par ménage, l'adoption de nouvelles techniques culturales et l'utilisation de semences améliorées.

Les femmes bénéficiaires au nombre de quatre cent (400) femmes bénéficiaires du programme grâce à un mécanisme de subvention – crédit ont pu toutes démarrer une activité génératrice de revenus. Ces activités de petits commerce leurs ont permis d'augmenter leurs revenus de 50% en moyenne à l'issue la mise en œuvre de cette première phase.

Sur le plan nutritionnel, des séances d'information et de sensibilisation sur la nutrition et la gestion des stocks alimentaire à travers une troupe de théâtre ont permis de réduire au sein des ménages cibles les facteurs d'insécurité alimentaire. Vingt (20) animatrices relais formées ont animés pour les femmes des séances d'information nutritionnelle avec les trois groupes d'aliments et des démonstrations de préparation de repas équilibrés à partir des produits locaux.

Le programme qui est financé par Terre des Hommes Suisse est dans sa deuxième phase et les résultats encourageant nous ont incité à élargir le nombre de ménages bénéficiaires qui est passé à six cent (600) ménages.

## **3. Programme de Promotion des Droits des Femmes âgées et leurs accès aux services sociaux de base au Burkina Faso.**

Les Communautés dans la province du Passoré souffrent de problèmes de santé en grande partie dus à l'accès limité aux soins de santé primaire. Ceci a eu comme conséquence un faible niveau de couverture immunitaire de 40% et les taux élevés de mortalité maternelle et infantile (95.57 pour 1.000 et 393 pour 100.000 respectivement). Comble de malheur, les décès et les maladies « non expliquées » telles que le VIH/SIDA sont attribués par la communauté aux actes de femmes perçues comme possédant des esprits maléfiques qui en sont les causes. L'accès limité aux soins de santé oblige une grande proportion de la population à dépendre des guérisseurs traditionnels qui non seulement font de mauvais diagnostics mais également accusent et perpétuent la stigmatisation des femmes vulnérables. Environ 80% d'accusations de sorcellerie sont incitées par des proches parents. La famille recourt souvent à la sorcellerie comme prétexte pour bannir des femmes considérées comme économiquement ou biologiquement improductives dans les ménages. L'ignorance et le manque de protection perpétuent la persécution. Les femmes accusées n'ont aucun appui, ni accès aux services de conseillers juridiques et n'ont donc aucune autre alternative que de quitter la communauté. Les lois coutumières qui perpétuent ces inégalités et l'absence de cadres légaux et politiques clairs ont pour résultat l'incapacité de l'Etat à imposer les dispositions législatives tel que code pénal. L'objectif général du programme qui a débuté en janvier 2009 est de contribuer à la

réduction de la pauvreté et au développement durable au Burkina Faso en soutenant les personnes âgées, en particulier les femmes âgées, afin qu'elles puissent exercer et jouir de tous leurs droits. De manière spécifique, il vise à réduire l'exclusion sociale et les abus de droits à l'encontre des femmes âgées au Burkina Faso.

Trente quatre mille neuf cent quinze (34.915) femmes âgées, des femmes et des familles vivant dans 14 communautés Mossi bénéficieront de services de conseils et santé, approvisionnement direct en services d'eau, hygiène et assainissement. Mille cinq cent (1.500) femmes bannies vivant dans des centres d'accueil recevront un appui psychosocial.

Le personnel de santé, la police, la gendarmerie, les juristes, les guérisseurs traditionnels, les auxiliaires de justice, les agents sociaux, les partenaires et les organisations de la société civile seront sensibilisés sur la problématique de l'exclusion sociale des femmes âgées. Ce programme qui durera trois ans a le potentiel d'améliorer le statut juridique d'environ 556.000 femmes âgées à travers le Burkina Faso

La mise en œuvre du programme financé par Helpage International et l'Union Européenne est réalisée par Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité (PF/DS) en collaboration avec l'Association pour la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Enfant et la Croix Rouge Burkinabè.

Ces trois programmes présentés par Promo-Femmes/Développement Solidarité entrent tous dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, les droits et les violences faites aux femmes qui constituent des problèmes fondamentaux des femmes en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Burkina Faso en particulier.

En marge de ces activités Mme Ouédraogo Clémentine Directrice des Programmes a participé au titre de la société civile aux différentes négociations de ECOWAS sur les accords de partenariat économique (APE) entre l'union Européenne et la communauté des états de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Suite à la forte pression de la société civile, la signature des accords a été reporté en juin 2009.

## Fund for Women in Asia Annual Report, USA

### Events

#### ***FWAsia Awarded Consultative Status with the United Nations ECOSOC – New York***

Non-governmental organizations take a role in formal UN deliberations through the Economic and Social Council. The Fund for Women in Asia has been granted approval to join the 3,187 recognized organizations with consultative status to ECOSOC.

“The ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. With its broad mandate, the Council's purview extends to over 70% of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system.” (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>)

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established under the United Nations Charter to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from UN funds and programs.

#### ***Film Screening of SOLD – New York City, May 2008***

The Fund for Women in Asia hosted a premier screening of clips from SOLD, a feature-length documentary about sex slavery and child prostitution in Southeast Asia. The film vividly follows the trail of trafficking as it begins in Southeast Asia and carries into the US. Taina Bien-Aimé, Executive Director of Equality Now, an international human rights organization that works to end all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women, moderated a Q&A session following the screening. Producer Rachel Sparks spoke about the genesis of *The Sold Project* (<http://thesoldproject.com/>), her understanding of trafficking issues and the making of the film. The event served to raise funds both for FWA and The Sold Project, which became one of our 2008 grantees.

#### ***Global Fund for Women Celebration of 20 Years of Grantmaking – New York, June 2008***



FWAsia supported the Global Fund for their Celebration of 20 Years of Grantmaking Women by attending “An Evening of Magic, Inspiration and Celebration of Women’s Leadership” and helped GFW raise US\$2 million for women’s human rights worldwide. Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland, and a Co-Chair of the event, honored the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and six grantee partners from South Africa, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malaysia, Liberia and Egypt.

## ***Women's Funding Network Annual Conference – Washington DC, March 2008***



FWAsia networked with other Women's Funding Network members and assisted The Women's Foundation (Hong Kong) in their presentation at the event. The conference provides capacity building workshops and lectures for women's funds all over the world, supports funding for women's organizations and helps support best practices.

## ***United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – New York City, February 2008***

FWAsia attended The United Nations 52nd [Commission on the Status of Women](#) and joined the Zonta International United Nations Committee at a dinner honoring Zonta International President Olivia Ferry.

### **WE GOT SMARTER!**

#### **FWASIA BOARD MEMBERS 2008 COURSES AND SEMINARS\***

Web 2.0 Training for Nonprofits (March 2008)  
Fundraising and Event Planning (Oct. 2008)  
Nonprofit (Nov. 2008)

Proposal Writing (May 2008)  
Financial Necessities for Running a

Strengthen Your Fundraising Program (Dec. 2008)

\* FWAsia Board members attend meetings and courses at their own expense (with the exception of the Global Fund for Women dinner, which FWAsia supported as part of our grant making.)

## **Coming Up in 2009: The Web Network**

Thanks to the generous support of JPMorgan Chase, we were awarded a grant from the "Summer of Service" program. Our project was selected from more than 100 applications by the Points of Light And Hands On Network, advisors to JPMorgan Chase. Chris Schiavetta, a rising Wharton junior, was offered a summer position working with FWAsia and he dove enthusiastically into our web network project. Working closely with our Board, and with Frank Martell and Jessica Morgenthal, finance and business professionals who volunteered their time, Chris developed a comprehensive business plan for our web platform project — an easily accessible, user-friendly and tool-filled way for Asian women's NGOS to network to access skills and resources and to build upon each other's knowledge base to share best practices. Chris started by analyzing the results of a survey FWAsia had conducted, then interviewed potential users of the site, and incorporated their comments into the proposal. He researched social networking models and technical issues, and developed a detailed budget based on input from web designers and users. This detailed due diligence confirmed the value and technical feasibility of the web platform concept. Building on Chris' excellent work, we will begin in 2009 to seek financial support to bring the concept to reality. We recognize that funders are pulling back in the economic recession, but we believe the web platform is a cost effective way to help women's organizations devote more of their scarce resources to their missions.

Chris was so interested in the project that he has kindly continued working with us as a volunteer after returning to Wharton for his junior year.



## Financial Report

We thank our supporters and donors for contributing to our mission and attending our events.

### Finances for 2008:

<b>Income</b>		<b>Outlays</b>	
2008 Donations:	\$19,154	Grants:	\$9,950
Interest	86	Rent:	600
Income / Fundraising:	1,980	Fundraising Costs:	358
<b>TOTAL Income:</b>	<b>\$21,220</b>	Dues, Postage, etc.:	3,764
Carry Forward 2007:	\$27,898	<b>Total Exp:</b>	<b>\$14,672</b>
<b>TOTAL 2008 Assets:</b>	<b>\$49,118</b>	<b>Net Assets YE 2008:</b>	<b>\$34,446</b>

Note: Donors may designate donations to specific FWAsia projects as well as to general operations.

## Grantmaking

FWAsia has approved the following grants in 2008:

### From the Rural Women's Front

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#### Sri Lanka

<http://rwfsl.com/index.htm>

RWF reports a sad turn of events:

“[We] suffered a real set back last November when the headquarters was attacked by the husband of a staff member, who ordered all the staff out, smashed office equipment, then set the building alight. As a result all the work has moved to the small and totally inadequate office in Galle on the south coast. We are seeking support to enable the work to continue, repair the HQ building and replace the contents.”



### Goodwill Bangkok <http://www.goodwillbangkok.org/>

Goodwill Bangkok offers job and skills training to women and girls at risk of entering the sex trade.

GB Bangkok reports:

“The self-learning CDs we purchased with your grant are regularly in use. Every day we have at least 4-5 students come in and spend some time learning English conversation. They spend about 3-4 hours on the lesson. The CDs are very useful, especially pre-beginner level students. They can listen and practice to pronounce some words. We really appreciate your support.”

The Women's Foundation (TWF) completed a two-year Stakeholder Engagement Project in 2008, disseminating a final report, "Closing the Gender Gap in Hong Kong: Conversations with the Community," in both English and Cantonese via the website at this link ([http://www.thewomensfoundationhk.org/main/research\\_status.php](http://www.thewomensfoundationhk.org/main/research_status.php)) and in hard copies to a broad cross-section of stakeholders in Hong Kong and internationally. FWAsia contributed extensively to the writing of the report.

As a result of this extensive consultative process, TWF was able to launch a grantmaking program to address some of the problems identified by the community, under TWF's umbrella of economic self-reliance. In 2008, grants were awarded to one project in each of TWF's three focus areas:

1. Women in Leadership: a mentorship program for female Hong Kong residents aged 21-35, who are currently working and aspire to be in a leadership position in the future.
2. Women in Poverty: Personal Enrichment Program: TWF is collaborating with a+b=3 Ltd., a local NGO, to develop modules on financial education and personal development targeted to help low income Hong Kong women gain control of their lives and finances.
3. Girl's Program: "A Girl's Life" Filmmaking Workshop: Thirty selected students completed a series of filmmaking workshops facilitated by professional filmmakers from Focus on Film. Students will come up with three different stories to reflect "A Girl's Life" in narrative, documentary and experimental form. The initial public screening is set for 15 March 2009 as part of The Women's Foundation's celebration of International Women's Month.

TWF continued to grow and mature administratively. With assistance from FWAsia, TWF has been able to hire three staff members in 2008 — an Executive Director, a Program Officer and a Development Officer. New research initiatives, some of which may be funded by City University HK, and a collaboration with Hong Kong Council of Social Services, are planned.

### ***Lola Grande – Philippines***



FWAsia was a supporting organization to the Lola Grande Foundation, [www.lolagrande.com](http://www.lolagrande.com), which sponsored the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights in September, 2008 in Manila, Philippines. The conference was supported by the Office of the President of the Philippines and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women in partnership with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and others. The Conference Objectives included infusing a gender perspective and rights-based approach to policies, programs, and services on migration and contributing to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the deliberations of the 2nd Global Forum of Migration and Development held in Manila on 27-30 October 2008. FWAsia provided strategic planning consultations and seed money to what became Lola Grande.

## ALI Pakistan Women's Association

The charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945 and APWA, All Pakistan Women's Association was founded in 1948 and is linked to that main body by its affiliation to the IAW in 1951, enjoying a category II status.

It was February of 1948 that saw Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, progressive and co-operative wife of the first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, found this APWA organization with a group of like-minded highly motivated women.

The trauma of partition of the Sub-Continent, which claimed millions of lives on both sides of the divide, broke all the hide bound conventions of stable society. Women had to come forward to cope with the huge refugee crises; as in times of disasters the help of women is realized by the men folk\_\_\_ example the women volunteers in world war II – the government also supported the organization then, in allotment of lands to be the basics of the APWA quarters in all parts of the country. Unfortunately as the nation has proceeded on, the crying necessity of women's problems have been shelved by the government organizations and all monetary help has been curtailed. Today APWA and its huge organization barely exist on philanthropic zeal and generous donors. It also fairs and plays to further its revenue and carry on the ideas of its founder, woman emancipation and empowerment

Begum Liaquat, coping with the refugee emergencies and social problems, made her organization a clear directive to focus on the community welfare, by giving meaning to the aspiration of those women who comprise the base of that place. So APWA always directed its efforts to help the female population, taking account into the cultural and prevalent environmental atmosphere. It purposely refrained from riling up and rubbing up any friction. This method lacked the fiery favour of more aggressive and militant women's organizations but a sure and steady pressure brought results in the long run. Today it is a name that brings a respect, a secure recognition and an acceptance in every hamlet, village and city of Pakistan. And in a quiet determined way APWA has penetrated with the very hinterlands of the country and raised the status of women. It has made its office shelters of handicrafts classes, for birth control clinics, for child immunization centres, for elementary schools, in tiny isolated communities.

Recognizing the imperative need for intellectual women to continually lead her organization APWA, Begum Liaquat founded several colleges of International standards and in major cities, Karachi, Dacca, Lahore, Peshawar, Hyderabad and all for young women. These colleges are still running but the nationalization policy took a great toll on the educational level. The young presidents that took over the mantle from the former founder members are determined to regain the lost glory of these prestigious institutions, appreciating the fact that education empowers the mother to give the girl a fair chance in this male dominated world.

For this end APWA has attended conferences of International levels to air the projects of the Pakistan woman and their laborings towards their realizations. In 2005 an International Conference was held in Islamabad on the subject of "Gender Mainstreaming and the Millennium Development Goals". It was attended by distinguished panelists Dr. Nafees Sadiq of UN, UNDP representative. Mr. Ouder Fucer, Ms. Senojun Thakur of the commonwealth, a long list of very dynamic and brilliant

people all linked with this urgent programme of gender equality. Here several workshops were opened and ladies took active participation in these outlets of education. A plan of action for APWA was formed, there were eight goals of the many presented at the Beijing Conference. These were all connected with gender promotion, strengthening, equality, health, education. Rights empowerment and also poverty alleviation. To this end APWA has in the last few years, done the following.

It has opened new schools in those rural villages that make a circular girdle around the metropolis of Karachi and Lahore. Here the villages are deprived of city amenities, and even the hamlet social web that has been destroyed by the migration of its elders and men- does not cater to gender education. So APWA makes the elementary schools a running Community project. The young President has land registered all the APWA property and recovered much from the land mafia and formed a trust of all its properties and investments so that dialysis centre may be established with the co-operation and supervision of medical colleges and hospitals like the SIUT, one of the greatest and only charitable kidney hospital. This service is free of charge and extremely necessary seeing contaminated water is a global tragedy leading to kidney failures. Again a micro credit and entrepreneurship Development with the help of the women's Development minister was signed. Here small cottage industries on the individual labour can exist and replenish the family income as APWA has shops for the outlet.

On the legal side APWA's modern team has covered its flanks properly. Today, with the help of the former chief justice of Sindh Aslam Zaidi, it is going forward to create a help line for any legal problems that may beset the poor especially women. A toll free number and free legal assistance has been advertised.

This continues the drive that Begum Ra'ana had started. The legal and judicial rights of women. She had made the drafting and acceptance in 1961 of the Family Law Ordinances which is still applicable in Pakistan, and to which this recent elect rate of APWA members want to improve and extend.

To support women imprisoned on unjust Handood Laws the organization visits jails, feeds the children, offers legal assistance to discarded women there and tries to empower them with cottage industry returns.

The educational branch of APWA made the T.V channels venues for idea broadcasts to encourage immunization programmes, interconnecting with other women's NGO in this drive. It organized seminars at Expo centres with the Ministry of women's Development Pakistan in Partnership. That highlighted the "Pakistani Woman Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" theme which addresses not only the phases of time but the levels of woman empowerment in hamlet, town and city respectively.

Together with the nurseries, schools and colleges under APWA care are the health centres, some in the centre of low income neighbor hoods and many in the far Goths or villages. APWA is considering a major project of turning out medical attendants with diplomas, in conjunction with an international agency donor; this will help the out of city clinics and empower those women from the poor rural area.

All this and more is the hope of the young president and her industrious team, it is the future that will in the hands of the present, seeing the present is beset with the global problems of this unstable world all we can do is work, wait and wish well.

# Bangladesh Mahila Samity

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Bangladesh Mahila Samity a pioneer women organization of Bangladesh supporting women to establish their rights and status for a better tomorrow. The aims and objectives of BMS are broadly (1) to emancipate women from social, economic and educational backwardness (2) to promote welfare and educate women on functional literacy (3) to provide leadership and capacity building (4) to provide legal aid and aware women on their legal rights and gender issues (5) to provide health and child care, micro credit, resource management, and other related motivation programs and training projects to achieve a “ Better Tomorrow” for them.

## **The Projects are:**

**i) Education Program** BMS runs a functional literacy program on informal adult education in Solmaid Budda which is a superb area of Dhaka City and also in its eighteen branch eighteen branch officers in all over Bangladesh. At the Dhaka head office under Renu Ahmed Memorial Project BMS conducts computing classes, English language classes, Spoken English classes to support young women to build their working capacity. Under this program BMS extended its education program for the nurses of National Institute of Cardiovascular diseases. BMS wishes to extend this education service program to other professionals when required. Apart from women education program BMS runs two primary schools for under privileged children in Dhaka, one at its head office, 4 Natok Sarani and the other one at Aga Nawab Dewri, the old part of Dhaka city, since 1962. the chittagong branch of BMS also runs a girls high school and an orphanage for more than decades. The Rangpur & Mymensing branch of BMS are running primary schools successfully.

## **ii) HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE PROGRAMS:**

The family planning and health centers of BMS in and outside Dhaka, provides awareness programs on health, personal hygiene, reproductive health care, adolescent's protective health program, common diseases, food & nutrition, sanitation, environmental family life education.

BMS also runs breast cancers and hypertension projects. This particular health assistance project was specially designed for women beneficiaries only. Our goal is to make women more conscious about their health problems. Through awareness and motivation camp we make them conscious about the high risk of Breast Cancer and Hypertension. The beneficiaries became aware of the symptoms of these diseases and also the preventive care to be taken for high risk members and exposed patients. Awareness on nutritious food habit is also created through this project. Beneficiaries come for regular checkups. Through strong motivation and counseling we have tried to overcome some problems. After completing the project Bangladesh Mahila Samity will continue to operate the health screening clinic at 4, Natol Sarani, the head of BMS. The good will of the Breasts Screening and the Hypertension clinic of ACWW project number 0708 has been established in the society. To some extent our beneficiaries became habituated to visiting us for medical counseling and clinical support. We have this consciousness will increase regularly. We wish to update the facilities of the clinic with the help of related organizations. Besides, BMS will try to continue the aware

program for mass awareness in the society. Providing financial support for the poor and deserving patients for under going pathological tests and purchase of chemo injections will be difficult for us to continue. Therefore, we would like to request donor agencies across the country to save the life of many women in our country.

**iii) LEGAL AID PROGRAMS:** Under the caption “BANDHAN” BMS also runs a project to harness rights based culture in family relationship and work on both preventive and curative side for a healthy family relationship. In the event of conflict in families mediation and counseling are encouraged and were this fail such matters are taken to court with legal support by the Samity’s lawyers to the women complainants. Shelter and medical support where necessary are also extended to abused women.

Two types of activities are carried out to reach the goal of the project.

- (a) Preventive Activities :**
- i) Family and its important role in caring, respecting and protecting Rights of all its members- from the grand parents to the child and the domestic help.
  - ii) Child rights.
  - iii) Marriage-Legal age of marriage, importance of registration of marriage, dower, dowry and polygamy.
  - iv) Divorced, maintenance, custody of child.

**(b) Curative Activities:** i) Mediation and counselling :- In two years we extended this service to 1367 clients coming to BMS. Our projects target was to serve 40 families a month, i.e. 960 families in two years but the flow of clients increased and they had to be attended often resulting in overstay of the counselors working hours.

There was an enhanced rate of family conflict settlement through mediation and counselling than litigation in court. Over the span of two years our mediation counselors attended 1,367 clients and a sum of BDT. 543,000.00 ( Tk five lac and forty three thousand) only was realized as wife/ child maintenance and dower. Considering the volume of clients, only 92 cases were filed in court for dower, maintenance and domestic violations.

Bangladesh continues with its legal aid program but due to paucity of funds only one lawyer attends for a couple of hours on Tuesdays and Saturdays of every week for counseling, mediation and on exceptional cases going to court for redress. As for the awareness programs we could not carry out as intended once a month for long as we are pressed for funds. Once we are able to arrange for funds we intend to continue this program at the community level in old Dhaka and educational institutions for boys and girls because this age is a crucial age for adolescence to hear and know about family rights from professionals.



# Report and Pictures

on the Activities of

**POWER**

(Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights)

for

July`2008 to April`2009

Period

## **Report and Pictures on Activities**

### **Background**

POWER (Platform of women's Empowerment and Rights) is a women's NGO which started functioning on 04.07.1999 and was registered under number MBA-Bog-74/2001 of 01.06.2001 by the Women's Affairs Department and under number 1682 of 27.09.2001 of the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Its main objectives are (i) raising of capabilities and resources of urban and rural poor women, girls and children (in terms of education, health-care, self-employment, human rights, social safe gender equity, biodiversity conservation etc) and (ii) creating of conditions for them to build and lead enlightened, self-reliant and healthful life with due rights and dignity in society. POWER is affiliated with the following national and international federations.

1. Nari Uddug Kendro (Centre for Women's Initiatives)
2. International Alliance of Women/IAW (Provisional Associated Society) The organizational and management structure of POWER consists of a General Body of 60 individual woman-members, an Executive Committee of 09 woman social workers (elected from amongst those 60 members), a staff strength of 13 full-time and voluntary workers and an advisory board of five local experts and dignitaries.

### **Activities of July 2008 to April 2009 Financial Year**

POWER works in mainly Bogra district which is spread over an area of 2919.9sq km with 678,940 households and a population of 3,015,400 only. The following statement gives the details of activities and accomplishments of POWER of July 2009 to April 2009 financial year and progressive totals there of up to April 2009.

Details of Programs/Activities	Accomplishments	
	July/08 to April/09	up to April/09
<b><u>01. Target Group Development.</u></b>		
a. Number of target groups of women organized.	12	120
b. Number of women enrolled as members.	240	2,400
c. Number of periodic meetings held by the target groups in their respective areas.	307	1,013
<b><u>02. Savings and Micro-credit.</u></b>		
a. Amount in Taka accumulated by the target group members.	61,513	1,91,718
b. Amount in Taka of micro-credit administered for income-generation.	3,82,720	3,82,720
c. Number of loaness.	181	312
<b><u>03. Literacy and Nonformal Education.</u></b>		
a. Number of poor illiterate women provided with 5 month nonformal education.	58	417
b. Number of dropped-out children and adolescents served with 10-month course of literacy, skill training, hygiene education and environment protection.	59	167

c. Number of slum-womens provided with 10 month NFE with micro-credit us\$ 20 per head (for may/2009.to April/2009.	60	60
d. Number of schools/centres run for conduct of literacy and NFE activities.	06	09
<b>04. <u>Clean Water supply and Sanitation.</u></b>		
a. Number of hand tube-wells sunk for use of poor families.	03	15
b. Number of sanitary pit latrines/toilets installed for use of poor families.	27	227
c. Number of poor families benefiting from hand tube-wells and sanitary toilets.	57	527
<b>05. <u>Biodiversity Conservation.</u></b>		
a. Number of saplings planted by the target group members in their homestead gardens and nearby road/river-sides.	500	5,800
b. Number of homestead nurseries run by target group women.	17	39
<b>06. <u>Program on Human Rights.</u></b>		
a. Number of woman-victims of human right violations assisted with treatment, shelter, self-employment or legal aid.	17	148
b. Number of poor children and adolescents of hazardous professions provided with NFE, skill training and other inputs for self-employment.	23	89
<b>07. <u>AIDS/HIV and Drug Addiction.</u></b>		
a. Number of gatherings and public places where miking was done about the causes, evils and remedies of AIDS/HIV and drug addiction.	21	65
b. Approximate number of people (day-labour, transport-workers, vegabonds, sex-workers gay girls, slum-dwellers etc) who attend miking.	2,500	7,500
<b>08. <u>GFW Program.</u></b>		
a. Number of adolescent girls attending NFE	120	120
b. Number of women have been received training an income generating activities.	120	120
<b>09. <u>ILO/Gob Project on welfare of women and children in Hazardous Trades.</u></b>		
a. Number of working children provied with NFE (from Nov/06 upto 2008).	300	300
b. Number of receiving 6 month skill development training (Target: 300 upto April/2009)	300	300
<b>10. <u>Number of disable persons, human rights violation victims, helpless widows and orphans etc serve with medicare training self employment and legal aid.</u></b>	17	62

<b>11. Slavery Project:</b> Number of poorhelpless domestic maid servants served with 9 <sup>th</sup> month course of nonformal education with micro trade skill and capital to be provided under the <b>UNHCHR</b> supported project.	x	100
<b>12. Training.</b> a. Number of women who were imparted training on agril/non-agril trades, micro-credit, immunization, health-care, nutrition, environment conservation, hurman rights, gender equity, advocacy etc. b. Number of personnel, volunteers, social workers trained in target group management, record maintenance, account-keeping, monitoring, evaluation/survey, reporting etc.	87  32	461  106

About 6,000 women having nearly 25,000 members in their families have so far derived benefits from the activities of POWER. Side by side with execution of self-funded projects, POWER has executed (during eight years of its working) projects with funding assistance of the following donor agencies, whom we remember with sincere thanks and gratitude

01. MAMA Cash Fund for Women of the Netherlands.
02. VGIF of the USA
03. Hope for Children of the UK
04. Globai Fund for Women of the USA
05. ILO and Ministry of Labour, GoB
06. ACWW UK
07. UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary form of Slavery of the UNHCHR.

### **Management Activities**

During the working year from July 2008 upto April 2009, the flowing events and activities among others were held to carry out POWER's development and administrative programs.

a. Number of general body meetings held	03
b. Number of executive committee meetings held	07
c. Number of advisory board meetings held	06
d. Number of quarterly coordination meetings held	04
e. Number of field visits undertaken by	
Committee members	33
Staff members	27
Trainers/Teachers	22

## **Conclusion**

Although the accomplishments of POWER are growing steadily to the satisfaction of the local communities including the beneficiaries, we admit that about 90% of the poor people living in rural and urban areas are in acute need of supports for development. Hence we have taken up a number of projects on the following fields and are trying to raise funds to implement those projects during the next 2009-2010 working year.

01. Literacy for children and nonformal education for girls and women.
02. Skill training and micro-credit for women
03. Human rights, gender equity, legal aid and arbitration.
04. Clean water supply and sanitation
05. Prevention of diseases including HIV/AIDS and drug addiction
06. Plantation and diversity conservation
07. Medicare, immunization and family planning
08. NFE and skill development training for hazardous child labour
09. Eradication of dowry, early marriage, polygamy child labor abuse and other social evils.

We fervently request the donor organizations at home and abroad to assist us with funding supports for implementation of the above projects.

On behalf of the management, we convey our heartfelt thanks to the Government agencies, donor organizations, project beneficiaries and our staff members for extending valuable cooperation to POWER for serving the rights and interests of poor women, girls and children in this part of Bangladesh.

Dated: Bogra  
15<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

Suchitra Rani Chowdhury  
Chairperson, POWER



**POWER (Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights)**  
Durgahatta, District Bogra, Bangladesh

**Activity Pictures**

on Project for Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh



Girls are learning from POWER's trainer how to measure clothes by tapes for undertaking tailoring as a micro-trade



POWER's Secretary and Project Director are talking with the teacher during visit to the nonformal education NFE centre at Bogra



During inspection of a training centre POWER's Secretary shows the trainee-girls the methods of cutting clothes by a scissor for tailoring



## Activity Pictures of Power

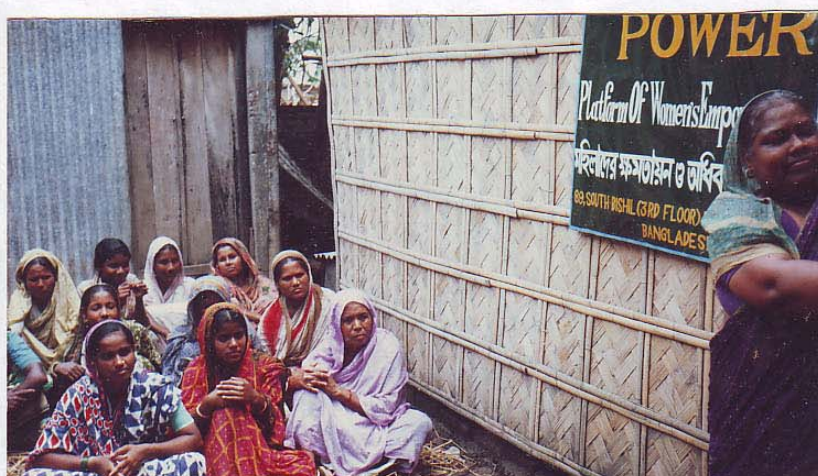
District Bogra; Bangladesh



POWER's women-members are given practical trainings on production of bamboo and cane goods for income-generation



An oppressed women on getting training and loan from POWER runs sewing for livelihood



Some poor oppressed women are attending a class on women's human rights run by POWER



**ACWW-POWER's Project on Slum-women's Non Formal Education (May/08-April/09) at Bogra in Bangladesh**



Slum-women are learning from POWER's trainer the method of setting 'chumki' (spangle) on sarees (women's garment) in the NFE centre



At Chapra-para of Bogra town slum-centre, the educant slum-women are listening to POWER's trainer



POWER's master-tailor provides practical training to slum-women at Bogra town the technique of cloth-cutting by scissor.



**ACWW-POWER's Project on Slum-women's Non Formal Education (May/08-April/09) at Bogra in Bangladesh**



The master-tailor of POWER of Bogra is teaching the slum-women the know-how of measuring clothes by tape/lace for tailoring purpose.



Operation of sewing machine is taught through demonstration by POWER's trainer to educant slum-women at Bogra



POWER management leaders' quarterly coordination meeting with educant slum-women's representatives (27-07-08)



## Activity Pictures



A woman of VGIF-funded project is watering vegetable plants in her garden



Poultry birds are reared by a woman of VGIF supported project



At the end of 5-day training, a trainer disburses seeds among the trainee -women



A woman-beneficiary of VGIF-funded project is taking care of her vegetable garden



After getting training and capital, a woman beneficiary is busy with cattle-raising

## Country Women's Association of India (CWAJ)

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Country Women's Association of India is a national voluntary organization devoted to the welfare of the less fortunate women and children of our Country. It has 500 individual life members and thirty five affiliated member societies working in 13 states of India. Through its members and member societies CWAJ aims to create a better society where every one has access to quality education, healthy and prosperous life free of exploitation, violence, poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goal. With this end in view the activities of the Headquarters, and the affiliated societies are carried on.

Seminars had been held, on "Women's ability to conquer the World", "The legal status of women in a family", "Human Rights-Women Rights", "Empowerment of Women through Vocational Trainings", "Caring of the HIV / AIDS affected persons", "Prevention of tortures and girl trafficking", "Child labour", "Environment and the responsibilities of Women" etc.

The aims of these seminars are to create awareness among the public about the positions of women.

In India we are still fighting for the 33% reservation of women in both parliament and Assembly Houses. Though in India, in many respects the conditions of women are better in comparison with other countries yet we are far behind in the matter of representation in these august policy making bodies of the country.

Education-Keeping in mind the aim to eradicate illiteracy among women in India the member societies are running adult literacy centres, non-formal education centres, coaching centres for underprivileged children, pre-school children centres. Local talents are promoted and some of the societies honour eminent teachers and citizens.

Community Health Services – Polio is a disease which cripples the children in their early days itself. With the help of the Government and Rotary clubs the immunization program is carried on by the member societies.

RNTCP has been taken up by few societies to eradicate tuberculosis from their own region.

Malaria has again come back fiercely. CWAJ had arranged awareness camps on this issue, distributed mosquito nets, medicines and held health check up camps. These efforts have helped to check the disease.

Smoking in public places has been prohibited by law. Stringent actions are taken who violates the law.

Since cancer is rising so measures are being taken to contain the disease.

Immunisation of children and pregnant women are done regularly so that cases of child mortality has come down.



In this way the general health has improved. This is due to education and economic improvement of the families through self employment by the women which has changed gender dynamic and the role of women in their household.

Microcredit Enterprises- Self help groups have been formed which is an innovative method to carry out development action which facilitate women to become entrepreneurs. To make this program successful the women have been given training in knitting, dress making, food preservation, bakery items, health drinks etc.

Victims of torture – To the Women who are victimized by their husbands, in-laws, relatives and others helping hands have been extended to them, counsel them, settle them as far as practicable and see that they get justice and able to fight for their rights. Dowry is a social evil and CWAI is creating awareness so that this evil is minimized.

Environment- Earth requires greenery to save it from global warming so saplings are planted and the members of the SHGS take care of them. Organic bazaars have become very popular. Some of the member societies are promoting agricultural products and vegetables through organic methods. Organic agriculture is an important tool for ecological regeneration.

ANINDITA MUKHERJI

C.W.A.I.

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Indian school children visiting Taj Mahal  
(photo: Lene Pind 2007)

# Mauritius Alliance of Women

Name: <b>MAURITIUS ALLIANCE OF WOMEN</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:m.a.women@intnet.mu">m.a.women@intnet.mu</a>
<b>Affiliate</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:fleuritu@hotmail.com">fleuritu@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Date</b> : 27th April, 2009	

**PAPER PRESENTED BY MISS RITA RAMDIN, PRESIDENT OF MAURITIUS ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ON CEDAW, BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION & MILLION DEVELOPMENT GOAL WHICH IS IN LINE WITH IAW ACTION PROGRAMME**

## **PROFILE OF MAURITIUS ALLIANCE OF WOMEN (MAW)**

Mauritius Alliance of women is a non political association which is in existence since 1978. It has more than one thousand two hundred and fifty women from affiliate organizations and individual. The achievements of MAW is that right from the start, at its launching on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1978, set up its objectives to fight for rights of Women and Children in different fields according to their needs and requirements.

The MAW helped to motivate women in general as well as the press the authorities concerned to bring about amendments to the Code Napoleon, mainly in the legalization of religious marriages and the raising of the age of marriage to 18 years for girls. The MAW is not concerned only with the rights, it has also an objective to acquaint women with their duties and responsibilities in our society. Many forum seminars, workshops, exhibitions and competitions have been organized in collaboration with our affiliates.

The MAW is emphasizing on burning interest to the society have been given due attention through participation in seminars and other organized activities, these include Drug Addiction, Teenage Pregnancy, Breast Cancer, Battered wives and Children, Girl Child, Gender & Poverty Alleviation.

Last year MAW organized five seminars on HIV/AIDS and Teenage Pregnancy. In each seminar more than hundred women participated. This year we are having six seminars on HIV/AIDS and sexually Transmissible Diseases. We are targeting Housewives and rural women.

As the Government is emphasizing on promoting women in small and medium Enterprises, MAW has just trained fifty women in Fabric painting. We had a display of all the beautiful work made by participants and the opening was performed 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, by Hon. Luc Xavier Duval Deputy Prime Minister of Tourism. Actually MAW is running courses on Food Preservation / Crystallize/Frozen Food. One hundred women are attending these courses twice a week. This is due to a project which we presented to the Decentralise Programme Ministry of Finance where a grant has been approved.

We also run many courses such as Aerobic, Yoga, Weighless, Dressmaking, Adult Literacy, cookery classes.

We have different commission where members of the Board are the Chairperson of Each Commission which are:

Education, Environment, Health, Poverty and Housing, Fund Raising, Project, Mass Media, Elderly, and Gender. Each commission is responsible of organizing activities according to the International Events.

MAW has a Pre – Primary under the name of La Colombe with fifty kids. The school is in existence since more than 15 years.

We have a Day Care Centre, where our Elders came to practice sports, games and participate in all our activities.

This year much emphasis is being laid in HIV/AIDS and Food Crisis. Therefore we are organizing many campaign against the prevention of HIV/AIDS. As far as Food Crisis is concerned, we are giving them the technique of making compost to be used in their plants to avoid pesticide and insecticide.

Four seminars are organized in collaboration with NFYC on Kitchen Gardening in order to sensitize the community at large on food crisis.

Mauritius Alliance of Women is affiliated to:

- International Alliance of Women
- SARDC /WIDSAA
- Municipal Council
- Mauritius Council of Social Services
- National Women Council which functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Women's Rights

Recently on the March, 2009 MAW has been awarded in appreciation for its significant contribution to women's empowerment.

### **CEDAW**

Here are policies persuaded by the government of Mauritius to implement the convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in line with provisions of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development.

The Guiding Principal of the Government is putting people first main achieving economic success through equity, ethics and social justice regardless of gender greed, ethnic origin or classes.

As regard women in the National decision making process, Mauritius has pledged in commitment to SADC to increase women's participation in politics and decision making by 30%. In the last election the politician honoured their pledge to increase women representations in parliament and there was a marked increase in number of women candidates from 5.7 to 17% in 2005.

We have 12 elected women in the National assembly compared only with the previous election. Mauritius has already achieved 30% of women participation at all level of decision making in the public sector 19 women Permanent Secretaries out of a total of 30.

The government of Mauritius has taken bold measures to domesticate the CEDAW convention through the enactment of legislation in favour of women.

The Domestic Violence Act of 1997 has been amended in 2004 and the Sex Discrimination Act of 2002 which led to the creation of a sex Discrimination Divisions within the Human Rights Commission are landmark.

The government has set up agencies such as Trust Fund for Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups to provide access to economic resources to women living in poverty conditions. A Micro Credit and Micro Enterprises Schemes has been amended by Ministry of Women's Rights, family Welfare and Child Development. The Government has recently launched the Decentralised Co-operation Programme for Poverty Alleviation with the support European Union with objective of reducing Poverty through Capacity Building and we Mauritius Alliance of Women presented a project by myself as President on ' Food Preservation' and which we are implementing now.

### **HEALTH**

The Government has consolidate its public health services, it may noted that health care is free and accessible to all women, men and children. Women over 30 – 60 years are benefited from Cervical cancer screening enabling the deduction of 1,819 abnormal smears. A total of 55,138 women benefited from the breast cancer screening where 992 cases were referred to hospital during the screening.

Growing the teenage pregnancy & HIV/AIDS is an area of concerns of Mauritius Alliance of Women is concentrating of having campaigns through out the island. The Government of Mauritius, NGO's and other Ministries are working on it. HIV/AIDS are increasing, where we are having regular seminars, talks and other campaign in order to sensitize the public at large on this issue.

A National Strategic Plan for the Period 2001 – 2005 was elaborated in order to address the problem and prevent the spreading of the disease and also a high level committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister in order to monitor the situation closely and HIV/AIDS Prevention Measures Bill is currently under preparation to provide measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS Education.

### **EDUCATION**

Education is free, Primary, Secondary, & Tertiary Level.

34 New Secondary Schools with modern amenities have been constructed in urban as well as rural areas. Both boys and girls have access to the same curriculum, enrolment rate of girls at the Pre- primary & primary level are above with boys 49% compared to 51% which secondary level girls enrolment stand 52% compared to 48% for boys. Efforts are ongoing to encourage girls to opt for science and other non – traditional subjects like engineering courses are offered at vocation level by the Industrial and Vocational Training Board at the Tertiary level as well. It is consider to be the fifth pillar of the Mauritian Economy. ICT's are powerful tool that will enable women to overcome discrimination, achieve full equality, well being and finally participate in decision. Housewives have benefited from computer proficiency program carried out in urban & rural area free of charge. The Education Act was amended in 2005 to make compulsory until the age of 16. Free transport to school children including those attending University has been extended by the Government in 2005.

The Government has ratified articles 100 of the ILO Convention on equal Remuneration of Articles DIL on Discrimination Employment and occupation in December 2002. The Government is trying to prevent all discrimination against women.

### **PUBLIC SECTORS**

Facilities to pregnant women have been given to leave half an hour earlier in the afternoon so as not to be caught in the traffic jam. In Mauritius women are occupying jobs which were previously male dominated such as Bus Conductors, Drivers and Engineers and four women co-pilots has been recruited. Gender based violence is said to be one of the most persives aspects of violating human rights which the governments pledged at the Beijing Conference in 1995 to enact the Domestic Violence Act. The Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development provides decentralized support service to victim of Domestic Violence through the Family Welfare Unit and Family Support Bureaux.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

In 2004, the setting up of the 'Brigade des Mineurs' within the Police Department has been set up.

In 2005 the child Protection Act 1994 was amended to render penalties for the children abduction child abandonment and child trafficking more severe. A gender focal point has been nominated in all ministries and departments. The Gender focal points were to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all policies and programme of their respective ministries.

As Rodrigues is situated 350 miles East of Mauritius with 18,000 women who constitute the female population in Rodrigues. In the agenda of the high concern women is placed as the high issues. They participate more actively in all the activities as Men.

Millenium Development Goals relating to IAW Action Programme which Mauritius has attained most of the targets set under the Millenium Development Goals.

### **GOALS**

Eradication of Extreme Poverty

The estimated people living in extreme poverty in Poverty in Mauritius are less than 1%. Achieve Universal Primary Education.

Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

### **PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY & PROMOTE WOMEN**

Achieve equal access for boys & Girls to primary and secondary education by 2005 and to all level of education not later than 2015. At the local level women occupy 12% and 5.8% of councilors positions in urban and rural areas respectively. This inbalance is continued to the national level where women comprise 17.1% of members of parliament and furthermore, there are only 2 females Ministers out of 20 available positions.



### **REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

Reduce under five mortality by two thirds by 2015.

### **IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

Reduce Mortality ratio by three quarters by 2015. It was estimated at per 100,000 live birth in 2007.

### **COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASE**

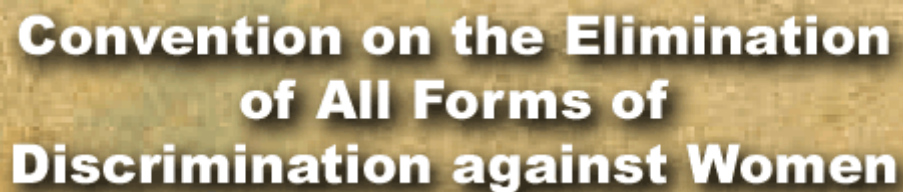
Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. Halt and reverse the incidence of Malaria and other diseases by 2015 and tuberculosis as well. An average of 525 new infections has been occurring yearly for last 3 years. A Mauritius HIV/AIDS proposal was submitted to the Global fund to help address.

### **ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Reverse loss of environmental resources. Halves the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. Develop a global partnership for development, Mauritius benefited from preferential treatments for many years. However with the retreat of these preferences Mauritius has to deal with a transition to global open competition. One has witness the withdrawal of some development partners, such as UNICEF ever through there are still significant issues of child abuse and violence against women, including sexual exploitation. Such circumstances has alerted the attention of other development agencies which have recognized that Mauritius required further assistance if its growth is to be sustained.

The European Commission has been another source of assistance to the Government of Mauritius through its General Budget Support.

Well, as President of Mauritius Alliance of Women I wish all delegates full of success in the implementation of Elimination of all forms of discriminatory against women.

A rectangular banner with a textured, golden-brown background. The text is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered on the banner. The text reads: "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of  
Discrimination against Women**

## Report 2008 / 2009

The assembly of the delegates of adf-svf took place on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Riehen, a municipality of the Canton Basel Stadt, which is mainly known because of the Museum of the Fondation Beyeler.

After having dealt with ordinary business like yearly report, calculation and budget the assembly unfortunately had to communicate some bad news: The Section Neuchâtel-Littoral doesn't exist anymore, whereas the Section of Geneva had to be dissolved by decision of the assembly. On the other hand the delegates were looking forward to the 100 year jubilee of our memberorganisation in Berne.

Further good news is

- the engagement of the members in the course of collecting signatures for the group **Euro 08**. For this project dealing with women's abuse and forced prostitution more than 500 signatures were collected during events on March 8<sup>th</sup>, in Renens and Basel. The project was furthermore presented during smaller events all over Switzerland.
- The engagement of members of various commissions for the organisation of the international meeting of IAW-AIF and the following Tour-de-Suisse-Féministe was noticed with great interest.
- The 2 brochures dealing with **violence against women and girls**, which were published on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and 2007 are a great success. Several interventions on the subject were brought up by the federal parliament.
- The campaign for the support of elected women with the Slogan "**Decency, Tolerance and Respect are fundamental rights of democracy**".

The delegates voted for two **resolutions**, the first dealing with the national old age insurance and the second with a passus in the procedure of swiss civil laws

At the reception in a beautiful historical building the Mayor of Riehen offered an apéro with regional wine. We were informed that one of the roads in Riehen will be renamed in honour of **Gertrud Späth-Schweizer** who in 1958 was the first woman to be elected as a member of the executive organ of the community of Riehen.

For the rest of the year until the beginning of 2009 the central committee was very busy with the **preparations of the events in June 2009 together with the several commissions:**

- Liselotte Kurth-Schläpfer and Simone Chapuis Bischof who since 2005 worked on the realisation of the **centenary book** were finally rewarded for their efforts. Under the leadership of Professor Beatrix Mesmer, Berne, the book for which over 30 historians have contributed will be presented to the public on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- In Heiden, Luzern, Bern, Estavayer-le-Lac and Geneva 5 commissions coordinated by Jessica Kehl and helped by parliamentarians, feminists and other sister organisations organised several events for the Jubilee and the Tour de Suisse Féministe.

Unfortunately the commission responsible for the succession of the president and the head of the office of adf-svf was until now not successful.

On **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** of our association in a rather unusual manner. Last but not least: on this occasion we also remembered the 50 years anniversary of the right to vote in the Canton Waadt, the first Canton where women were able to vote.

During the period of this report we have taken part in various **federal consultations** concerning new laws or laws to be resolved.

### **French Version**

**L'assemblée des déléguées de l'adf-svf** a eu lieu le 30 mai 2008 à Riehen, commune (faisant partie du petit canton de Bâle-Ville) célèbre pour son remarquable Musée de la Fondation Beyeler.

L'assemblée se caractérisa comme d'habitude, après les rapports statutaires, par l'énumération des heurs et malheurs endurés par notre association. Au chapitre des déceptions : la disparition d'une section, celle de Neuchâtel-Littoral, et l'exclusion d'une autre, celle de Genève.

Au chapitre des satisfactions (elles sont nombreuses) :

- la belle fête préparée pour le Centenaire de notre association membre de Berne!
- le magnifique militantisme de certaines de nos membres, lors de la récolte de signatures pour une pétition lancée par le groupe **Euro 08** contre la traite des femmes et la prostitution forcée : 500 signatures récoltées le 8 mars 2008 dans des stands de l'adf-svf à Renens et à Bâle, ainsi que dans des manifestations ailleurs en Suisse.
- l'engagement enthousiaste des **commissions préparant** le centenaire de notre association et la venue en Suisse de notre association faîtière internationale.
- le succès de nos 2 brochures publiées le 25-11-2006 et 25-11-2007 **contre la violence faite aux femmes** : elles ont inspiré quelques nouvelles interventions parlementaires sur le sujet,
- le succès de notre campagne pour le soutien des femmes élues avec le slogan:  
« **Politesse, tolérance et respect – sont des valeurs fondamentales de la démocratie!** »

Les déléguées adoptèrent après discussion **une résolution** sur l'Assurance vieillesse et survivants et une seconde résolution concernant le Code de procédure civile.

«Tant qu'il n'y a pas de mesures suffisamment incitatives pour améliorer la situation salariale des femmes qui gagnent 20% de moins que les hommes

### **Tant que les structures d'accueil de la petite enfance ne sont pas vraiment améliorées**

*Tant que la flexibilisation proposée dans les révisions de l'AVS n'est pas vraiment attrayante,*

*nous continuerons de nous opposer avec la plus grande fermeté à la hausse de l'âge du droit à la retraite pour les femmes. Pendant une génération encore, on peut estimer que les femmes qui arrivent à cet «âge» n'ont pas travaillé dans des conditions d'égalité correctes.»*

Les autorités communales de Riehen nous recevaient ensuite pour un vin d'honneur dans la magnifique cour d'une maison historique de Riehen et le maire nous annonça qu'une rue de la commune porterait bientôt le nom de **Gertrud Späth-Schweizer**, première femme élue dans un exécutif en Suisse, le Conseil des Bourgeois de Riehen (1958).

Pendant le reste de l'année et au début de 2009, les membres les plus actives du comité et des commissions de **préparation du centenaire** et de la réunion internationale n'ont pas chômé :

- Liselotte Kurth-Schläpfer et Simone Chapuis-Bischof qui travaillent depuis 2005 au projet de publication scientifique pour notre centenaire arrivent au bout de leurs peines : le livre sort en juin, y ont collaboré plus de 30 historien-ne-s sous la direction de Beatrix Mesmer, anc. professeure à l'Université de Berne.
- A Heiden, Lucerne, Berne, Estavayer-le-Lac et Genève, les cinq commissions coordonnées par Jessica Kehl et aidées de féministes, d'autres associations féministes et d'une parlementaire ont préparé les diverses manifestations de notre Centenaire, de la réunion de l'AIF et du Tour de Suisse féministe.

**La commission «Avenir + Zukunft»** mandatée pour discuter de l'avenir de notre association centenaire est arrivée à la conclusion que l'association devait se dissoudre sur le plan national. Les sections membres qui existent encore sont libres de continuer leur action sur le plan cantonal. La dissolution de l'adf-svf sera votée par l'assemblée des déléguées du 13 juin 2009. Cette décision ne signifie pas que nous avons atteint tous nos buts et que l'égalité est réalisée partout, mais n'ayant plus les forces, ni les personnes ni les moyens de continuer la lutte, mieux transmettre la responsabilité de notre combat à d'autres groupes plus jeunes et finir en beauté, en remettant à l'histoire de notre pays ces 100 ans de militantisme féministe.

Nous avons fêté de manière inventive le vrai **100e anniversaire de notre association – le 28 janvier 2009** – et les 50 ans de droit de vote cantonal dans le canton de Vaud (cf notre Contact 1/2009).

Par ailleurs, nous avons répondu à quelques **consultations** importantes de nos autorités fédérales:

- Une Institution nationale des droits de l'homme en Suisse ?
- Loi fédérale concernant les mesures de lutte contre les mariages forcés
- L'avant-projet et rapport explicatif ayant trait à la révision totale de la loi sur les marchés publics
- La modification de la loi fédérale sur les étrangers concernant le contre-projet indirect à l'«initiative sur le renvoi»
- Le projet de modification de la loi sur l'asile (LAsi) et de la loi fédérale sur les étrangers (LEtr)
- La révision du code civil suisse (autorité parentale) et du code pénal suisse
- Le dégrèvement fiscal des familles avec enfants
- L'initiative parlementaire demandant la répression des mutilations sexuelles commises en Suisse et commises à l'étranger par quiconque se trouve en Suisse

Jessica Kehl-Lauff et Simone Chapuis-Bischof  
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## Danish Women's Society

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**Date:** May 1, 2009

### Highlights

#### 1. No to buying sex!

The Danish Women's Society has initiated a campaign against prostitution. Together with 23 other organizations we have encouraged people to say "No to buying sex." We find that prostitution is a dangerous way for women to make their living, and many women end up after several years of prostitution with severe damage done to their lives. Many have developed an addiction to drugs or alcohol and cannot live normal lives with close attachment to other people afterwards. On the International Women's Day we had a demonstration through Copenhagen, walking down the streets in the part of town, where the prostitutes work, appealing to everybody that sex is not something you buy, because it discriminates against all women. The campaign also focuses on trafficking which is an increasing problem in Denmark, because Norway and Sweden, and recently Iceland, have all criminalized the buyers of prostitution. We do not want Denmark to end up as the brothel of Scandinavia, because the criminals financing the organized crime will soon find it most convenient to transport the trafficked women to Denmark where the legislation is the most liberal. The Danish Women's Society together with the 23 other organizations hope to influence the politicians in Parliament to vote for a law to criminalize all buyers of sex.

#### 2. The crisis centre

The Danish Women's Society has established a shelter for women with room for disabled women as well. The centre provides shelter for women who have been exposed to domestic violence or another kinds of crisis in their family. They can also bring their children to live at the centre. It is possible to stay for several months at the centre or as long as need be. The local authorities pay for their stay.

Most of the staff are volunteers, and apart from that the regular staff consists of a daily leader, a social worker, a coordinator for the volunteers, a counselor for the children and a network coach. The job of the latter is to make a network for the women who have left the centre. The centre also gives anonymous counselling to women on the telephone and via e-mail. Around 28.000 women are victims of domestic violence every year in Denmark.

### **3. Projects of Integration**

In Denmark it is of great importance to introduce new citizens of other ethnic backgrounds to the Danish society and make everybody aware of their democratic rights and duties. We of course find it the most important to focus on the integration of women, and therefore we have had campaigns against forced marriages and young women's rights to say no and have a right to form their own opinions. Our two new projects will focus on:

- 1) Getting more women of other ethnic backgrounds than Danish involved in various organizations in civil society. It is also a way of strengthening the net working between Danish and new-Danish women, and a way to make it easier for the women to get a job in Denmark.
- 2) Developing new educational material for older children at schools to prevent honour related crimes such as killings and violence. The material will be developed in cooperation with professionals and tested on several groups of children before being published.

# Deutscher Frauenring, DFR

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## Highlights

1. Seminar Nov. 2007 on *Immigration Integration Participation?* A starting point for action
2. Activities in 2007/2008/2009 regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> German Periodic Report to CEDAW
3. Celebrating the first *Frauenring Day October 8, 2008* with the motto *Back to the Roots*

**Report:** (Maximum 2 sheets incl. this page)

1. Among the numerous seminars held by DFR in 2007/2008 at all levels of our organisation the one in October 2007 on ***Migration Integration Participation*** was a special event. It focussed on the situation of female immigrants in Germany, the effects of new German legislation on immigration, the economic aspects of migration and migration as a global phenomenon. Experts like Rita Süßmuth and Barbara John as well as politicians and immigrant women addressed 80 seminar participants. At national and local levels follow-up activities took place, notably cooperation with Muslim women's organisations to facilitate contacts with this important segment of immigrant women in Germany and, generally, to promote networking. The overall objective is to find new ways to improve the integration of migrants, especially women and girls. To get ahead, DFR with partner organisations, held a symposium in Cologne *We – Women in Germany*, in June 2008. DFR was responsible for the organisation of a workshop on the integration of both immigrant and native German women into the job market.

We also went public with press releases and sent letters to politicians asking for changes in the legislation on residence for immigrants as well as for granting illegally immigrated children their right to education (May 2008); and again in July 2008 asking for data and yearly updated information about immigrant women in Germany and in the European Union.

DFR also works in another field of highest of concern in the context of immigrant women and girls: we are one of presently 18 members of ***INTEGRA, the German Network to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)*** created in 2007. Most of the actors are active in Germany -an estimated 19.000 women who underwent FGM live with us and 5000 girls are threatened by FGM- and in those African countries where the traditional practice is unfortunately still wide-spread harming the health and the human rights of women. The organisations now join forces and weight to impact on German politics and the societal and social reality. Focal areas are: improved protection of endangered girls by legal measures, but also by expressly including FGM into the system of early childhood medical check-ups devised i.a. to better detect child neglect and sexual abuse. The system is currently under revision in most of Germany's 16 Länder. Presently *INTEGRA* is putting together common priorities for a *National Plan of Action*.

DFR started as early as 1990 to support women's organisations in Burkina Faso in their fight to end FGM and continues to do so. In 2007 DFR initiated a dialogue with federal ministries which was lately continued on behalf of *INTEGRA*. For February 6, the

International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, we issued a Press Release and reminded the government as State Party to CEDAW of its obligation to protect girls from FGM by all appropriate means.

2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report of Germany to CEDAW was reviewed early in February in Geneva. Thanks to our Berlin Representative and head of our headquarters, we played an important role in the writing and presenting of the **Alternative Report** to CEDAW. DFR was responsible for the chapter on role stereotypes and contributed to the chapter health and addiction. We were in the redaction team and member of the group of four women who presented the executive summary of the report put together by an alliance of 31 German NGOs and Groups, at the Pre-Session August 2008; and included in the group which, at the CEDAW session end of January briefed the Committee on the Alternative report before the Government report was examined. The CEDAW Committee took up most of the deficits described in the Alternative report and requested steps for improvement. The German equality policy has been only partly effective, and in some areas deficits worsened in the reporting period. The list includes: one of the highest pay gaps in Europe between women and men; for many women no other choice than part time work thus pushing them into the low wage sector; lacking attention to needs of women and girls in the health sector; discrimination of immigrants regarding access to education and labour market; persisting forms of violence against women particularly against migrant workers and unequal treatment regarding social benefits; lacking government action towards eliminating gender stereotypes e.g. in advertising, and gendering public budgets. A group of transsexual and intersexual people presented their own report on discriminations and violations of their human rights. This was a “first” for the CEDAW Committee which readily took up the issue and requested the German government to take the steps needed to correct the situation.

Last not least Germany is not doing enough to make CEDAW known within government structures and civil society. DFR, for one, reacted to that deficit by inviting multipliers from its own ranks to a seminar in February 09 on CEDAW and the potential of the “Women’s Convention” to get the government to do its home work. A member of the government delegation accepted our invitation, gave explanations and answered questions.

#### **2 examples of DFR action against discrimination:**

Local groups participated in the *Equal Pay Day 2008* (March 15) handing out material and red bags. In October 2008 DFR passed a resolution in support of the position of the European Women’s Lobby on the planned EU directive for protection against discrimination in the public and private sectors with regards to social protection which lacks a gender provision.

3. To strengthen the feeling of belonging together –which is not a matter of course since DFR has a horizontal structure– October 8 has been proclaimed **Frauenring Day**. Local groups are encouraged to organise events on a given theme. In 2008 events focussed on the personality of the Founding President of DFR, Theanolte Bähnisch, and the important role our organisation soon played in the young German democracy after World War II because of its involvement in and competence for women’s issues. October 9, 2009 DFR celebrates its **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in Berlin, preparations are well under way. For those of our 6000 plus members unable to attend, local *Frauenring Day*



events will commemorate Brigitte Pross, two-term President and tireless promoter of DFR's international ties at many levels, at a time when this was far from common. As a long-time Board Member and Vice-President of the International Alliance of Women representing the IAW at the UN in Vienna, she was a role model for younger women. IAW members in West Africa remember her for her dedication to help them realise women's projects. The ties she knitted still hold.

**Speaking of projects:** DFR representatives of 30 local groups gathered for 2007 seminar on *Civic Involvement in Women's Projects*. The seminar documentation shows the wide variety and importance of DFR local projects (sometimes in cooperation with other groups and the *national machinery*) in the areas of Migration and Integration, Future of our Children, Empowerment of Women by increasing knowledge and skills, Reconciliation of family and work, The Inter-generational Dialogue.

**To conclude: *A Dialogue between Old and Young– Justice for all Generations* was also the theme of a seminar in Berlin in November 2008. Aspects treated were gender-relevant problems of an ageing population, the effects of globalisation and changing lifestyles. For DFR members of the Generation 50 plus the seminar was an opportunity to meet with ten young women of the Generation 20 plus who had followed our invitation for a dialogue.**

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## Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband e.V. / DStV

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### Highlights

1. "No to Violence" Campaign and Gender Parity Efforts
2. CEDAW Shadow Report
3. Migration & Integration

**Report:** of the International Committee (IA) of the German Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband e.V.

The International Committee of the DStV links up with IAW and its Action Programme.

### **Highlight Nr 1** *Promotion of Gender Parity and "No to Violence" Campaign*

The International Commission (IA) of DStV has continued its advocacy and support of the worldwide endeavour of women's organizations to abolish battering and the use of violence in the domestic sphere. - Closer study of structural violence in the public domain is considered.

The encompassing goal is Gender Parity. We see a lack of gender balance in all walks of life. We want to put qualified women in decision making positions - be it by quota – because it is very urgent that women exert their influence and contribute to the promotion of democracy, justice, nonviolence and peace.

We followed the "Call for Action" of the European Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström and supported the European Women's Lobby Parity Campaign, - presently for enlisting the best female candidates for the 2009 European Elections - to further the equal participation of women in politics also at the EU level.

At the communal level Berlin is champion number one in Gender Budgeting implementation, which stands for "Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women", which we strongly support.

### **Highlight Nr 2** *CEDAW Shadow Report / Alternative Report – Justice / Human Rights*

The International Committee (IA) may rightly be called the cradle of the Shadow Report Alliance which constituted itself a year later under the leadership of the German National Council /Deutscher Frauenrat and with the support of the German Human Rights Institute in Berlin. Since 2007 the International Committee (IA) opened its door to all interested Women's organisations to participate in a workshop on How to Write Shadow Reports, which ran through the year and of which Berlin women's organizations made good use. We especially appreciated the participation of our sister organization at IAW, the Deutsche Frauenring, whose member and office manager Dr. Botsch went all along with us up to the New York and Geneva UN sessions. Our special thanks go to Marion Böker who professionally organized everything from cradle to printed engraving.

### **Highlight Nr. 3** *"Migration & Integration" – Promoting Democracy and Peace*

In 2007 DStV offered a seminar on "Women in Uganda" taught by a native Ugandan woman professor. This wetted the appetite for more information on women from

different parts of the world. We did not have to go far in Berlin. We associated with the South Korean Women's Organization which had just published a book with a collection of their individual memoirs as nurses in Germany in the 60ies and 70ies and were keen reading and discussing issues. The International Committee (IA) joined the Asian's Women organizations' demo at the Memorial Church at the Ku-Damm in support of their sisters named "comfort women" in WWII and their justified claim for some though late financial compensation for their sufferings. – There was another publication on "Forced Prostitution in Times of War and Peace" which also included the recent Balkan Wars, and we supported the translation and promotion of the book. In 2008 we had the good fortune to connect up with a migrant women's organization "Al Dar", women from different Arab countries who came to Germany in very different years and mostly as fugitives. In 2009 "All Dar" celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Berlin, and we learned that DStV is the first German women organization to establish closer contact with it.

At Muenster, the capital of the Federal State of North-Rhine-Westphalia, The DStV has long-standing associations with Spanish Women, wives and daughters of guest-workers of the 60ies and 70ies, who finally made Germany their home.

In the same region, another topic is thoroughly looked at, which is " Girls in Prison and how to help them". The results of two years of work were presented at a seminar in August 2008.

Another group at the town of Neumuenster in the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein has chosen the European Union as its center of interest and attended a seminar with excursions to Strassburg and Luxemburg.

# Frauennetzwerk für Frieden, Germany

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**Date:** 10.5.09

## Highlights

1. Participation in the follow-up development of the international project "1000 PeaceWomen for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" -now: "1000 PeaceWomen across the Globe")
2. Advocacy for gender sensibility and gender justice in general and in particular in the field of conflict management and peacemaking (Beijing Platform for Action Chapter E 4, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and 1380 (2008)
3. Lead organisation in the Bonn association to celebrate UN Peace Day (21<sup>st</sup> of September) and the International Year of Reconciliation 2009

## Report:

1. The international project "1000 Peace Women Across the Globe" goes back to the Swiss initiative to drawing attention to the outstanding and valuable but mostly invisible work of women all around the globe in the fields of 10 diverse aspects of peace: reconciliation and reconstruction after violent conflict; women's rights – human rights; economic rights and livelihood; minorities and indigenous people; environmental justice and ecological security; peace education and peace culture; women, health and peace, politics and governance etc.

1000 women were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005, the number being a symbolic number behind which many more women are to be perceived - 100 years after Bertha von Suttner was awarded with this prize as the first woman. The majority of men who were honoured with this prestigious prize during the following centenary was felt to clearly showing the lack of gender balance and gender justice. The 1000 women were not honoured with this prize, but the yearly nomination in Oslo is going on and the networking within this group and with women and women's organisations who are dedicated to peace all around the world is developing steadily. The visibility of women's wholistic work for peace has also been improved by the publication of the project in English as an outstanding book, followed by several books in different languages, either completely or in a selection, moreover by the portrait exhibition which has been shown around the globe more than 100 times already, by a newsletter etc.

Women's Network for Peace (Germany) has participated in the advocacy for this project, in supporting exhibitions, staying in contact with a number of these PeaceWomen and giving support to their needs and visibility of their work. The highlight, however, was the initiation and coordination of the translation of the 1000 portraits and the accompanying texts of the English print publication into the German

language. This translation is available in the internet and can be downloaded:  
<http://buchdeutsch.1000peacewomen.org>

The website of the international project is [www.1000peacewomen.org](http://www.1000peacewomen.org)

2 The readiness for gender sensibility among men and women in decision making positions on the level of politics, society and family structures in all processes of peace building and peacemaking in times of war, post-war and post-conflict situations as well as in the field of trust building is very important for the recognition of gender justice which means getting women's full participation and women's needs into the written papers, guidelines, recommendations, laws and project assessments. It is even more crucial to facilitate the implementation of all these and it seems more difficult to achieve. The Women's Network for Peace is active in this field, focusing on war and peace seeing through women's eyes, but also drawing on the perspectives and needs of men and boys wherever it is important, thus raising the understanding of gender issues and the hidden but most relevant gender perspective especially among men, but also among women who deny that it is of any importance. Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" is still little known but it is there and we should make use of it. But the strategies of implementation must be refined and supported by many more tools and assets. Unfortunately the interdependence of women, peace and security is more and more reduced to women and security thus focusing on the military context.

3. The observation of the International Day of Peace on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September (by decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2002) each year is a very good opportunity to focus on relevant topics of peace and to cooperate fruitfully with other organisations on the local or regional level thus bringing the issue to the people. The Women's Network for Peace has become one of the lead organizations in the Bonn network which is becoming stronger and bigger each year. There also exists an international network that was started by GPPAC (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict) with website etc..

# Fredrika Bremer Forbundet, Sweden

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Date: May 1, 2009

## Highlights

1. Nine breakfasts with successful women in business and society, Three seminars on the theme Fathers for real to discuss the parental leave and the role of fathers.
2. Two high level seminars, on the theme why men leave higher education
3. Jubilee activities for FBF 125 years and Hertha 150 years with a special issue of Hertha with two seminars.

## Report:

This year has been a start up year and a reconnection of our relationship with our sisters, the Ass. for Fredrika Bremer Studies, The Scholarship Foundation and our boarding highschool in the southern part of Sweden, Apelryd. We need to cooperate in order to be visible.

We also, as in earlier years, started activities on the national level, as you can see from our presentation of highlights. We also succeeded to receive grants for Hertha and other activities.

The discussions on feminism and equality are coming back, but the situation is different so we have changed our platform and ongoing projects.

People thought FBF was dead and buried, as nothing had happened in the organization for so long. Next year we hopefully have come a little bit further in our work for equality.

FBF has also started mentorship activities for young women, which is now working in different parts of the country. Another project, also for young women- this time for entrepreneurs and politicians from Russia and Latvia together with Sweden- is to enhance entrepreneurship in women. For these activities we have received grants from the government.

We have also tried to follow up on the situation for the girls in Pakistan, writing to the Ambassador and to media.

As a follow up of our activities for women in decision making positions in business, we have also been active in media and asked for more women in the board of companies.

We hope IAW can be revived and vitalized. It is needed to continue our work for equality not only in our own countries but in the world!

We do not have time and money to come to Switzerland but hope things will be better next year and that we can come to South Africa next year.

# Greek League for Women's Rights, GLWR

Name: Soula Panaretou, President

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## Activities Report, 2007-2009

### **1. Legislation for the elimination of discriminations against women in all sectors of political, social and economic life (IAW Action Programme.-Democracy and Art. 2, 3 & 7 of CEDAW )**

#### **i. Political life**

##### **a. Institution of quotas in electoral lists for the National Parliament (Law 3636/2008)**

Following up on the incorporation of positive measures in the Greek Constitution, to a great extent the result of a previous campaign by the GLWR and the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (MFHR), the two organisations initiated a campaign aiming at instituting quotas in the electoral lists for the National Parliament. Our demand was that each gender be represented by at least 1/3 on the total number of candidates in all candidates lists. The new vigorous campaign was supported by a total of 24 women's organisations. Prof. Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos President of MFHR and Hon. President of GLWR was in the lead of this campaign. She prepared the text for the proposed provision and the preamble, and submitted them to the Government and to all the Political Parties. A public discussion was organised in support of the demand, during which Political Parties expressed their views and took part on the matter. Letters signed by 24 Women's Organizations, among them the Women's Sections of all major Greek Labour Unions were addressed to the Government, the Political Parties and individually to all MPs. The result of our campaign was successful. The demanded quotas were introduced, and will be in force as from the next general elections for the Greek Parliament.

##### **b. Institution of quotas in the scientific committees**

The GLWR considerably contributed to the passing from the Parliament of the Law 3653/2008, introducing quotas for the participation of women by at least 1/3 to National Scientific Committees dealing with Science, Research and Technology.

##### **c. European elections 2009**

1. The President of the GLWR Soula Panaretou, in view of the forthcoming European Parliament Elections addressed a letter to all women candidates of all political parties stressing the support of the GLWR to the equal participation of women and men in electoral lists, in line with the 50/50 campaign of the EWL. Drawing from the long experience of the GLWR in advancing gender equality, Mrs. Panaretou invites future MPs of Europe to take into serious consideration the following 3 points in the pursuit of our common goal of promoting women's role in society: (a) support gender mainstreaming (b) defend and upgrade the social role of the State and local governments and (c) create steady cooperation and mutual information between members of European Parliament and women's organisation.

2. Members of GLWR signed the 50/50 campaign of the EWL "No modern European Democracy without gender equality".

## **ii. Social life**

A draft law was introduced in Parliament this summer, titled “Reforms for the family, child, society etc.” by which, among others, it was provided that each of the spouses “has the right to add to his or her family name the family name of his or her spouse after the marriage”. This abolishes a previous regulation, existing since the family law was last reformed in 1983, by which woman’s family name remains unchanged after marriage, without additions of any kind. The proposed arrangement was considered to be contrary to the constitutionally protected gender equality and the international law, therefore unacceptable. The GLWR and MFHR by a series of actions (Press Conference, letters to Government Ministers, Political Parties, MPs and the press, consultations, resolutions, etc.) put forward a series of arguments supporting that the abolition of the status quo constitutes a fatal blow against gender equality, and therefore the proposed regulation should be removed from the draft. Many other parties, among them the General Secretary for Equality, the National Commission for Human Rights, Political Parties, 23 Women’s and feminist organizations also reacted. As a result the Ministry of Justice withdrew from the draft the stipulation for the family name. Suddenly, however, during discussion in parliament, the Minister accepted a last minute amendment, by which the stipulation on the family name was brought back. The new law 3719/2008 was passed. This we consider a heavy blow on equality since it deprives women of their vested right to retain unaltered their surname for the whole of their lives. The GLWR and the MFHR, with support from 23 women’s organizations, protested against this regulation, and intend to use all legal means in their disposal against it.

## **iii. Economic life**

### **a. Combating Sex Discrimination in the Labor Market and Sexual Harassment**

From July 2007 till June 2008 the GLWR has implemented a Program on combating sex discrimination in the labor market and sexual harassment at the work place. The Program, financed by the European Social Fund through the Greek Ministry of Labor, was addressed to working women in the private and public sectors, and was culminated by a Conference held in Athens in June 2008.

**b. Re. equal rights of men and women in employment** we submit comments on draft laws on issues of gender equality and employment. Recently our representative in the National Commission for Human Rights submitted recommendations on the incorporation in the Greek Law of the EU Directive 2006/54, which codifies four previous Directives,

### **2. Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes (article 5 of CEDAW).**

The GLWR attempts to eradicate prejudices and stereotypes by providing information and promoting good practices.

**i. Our half-yearly Journal “Woman’s Struggle”,** published since 1923, is totally dedicated to the support of gender equality, promoting women’s rights, fighting gender stereotypes and disseminating news and information on the status of women in the country and all over the world. It is the only solely feminist publication in the country and attracts the interest not only of our members, but of a larger public of research scientists, students and other interested parties.

**ii.** As from 2008 our web site [www.leaguewomenrights.gr](http://www.leaguewomenrights.gr) is in operation, with all the news on the activities and actions of our League.

**iii. Annual Awards to Journalists** of the printed and electronic media who consistently during one year supported and promoted gender equality.



**iv. Public discussions** are organized on the harmonization of work and family life, on women's significant but humble social contribution and a variety of other issues.

**v.** The GLWR and the Gender Studies of the Panteion University organised the presentation in Athens of a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) Report "Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World". The Report was the outcome of a significant global research, the object of which was to find out "how much has been achieved in the past decade" and to ascertain in general the situation of the women in the world to-day in the light of "social transformations that attend economic developments, but are not simply the by-product of economic growth".

### **3. Elimination of violence (IAW Action Programme and Art. 6 of CEDAW )**

Since it has been founded in 1920, the GLWR has placed the issue of violence, in all its forms, against women among its top priorities. Recently new legislation (Law 3500/06) came into force since 2007 in order to address the phenomenon of family violence in Greek society. The GLWR has contributed to this end by participating in the major committees – Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Interior- as well as by the valuable contributions made by the Hon. President, Professor Alice Marangopoulos - Yotopoulos to Parliament and other fora.

Although, the new law is considered to be a significant step forward, the GLWR recognizes that a lot more remains to be accomplished in terms of disseminating the content of the legal provisions, changing attitudes and old stereotypes, promoting victim protection and rights among all citizens and especially women, as well as policy measures and prevention strategies for an effective application of the law. For this reason, there is a constant effort and activity in organizing seminars, open discussions, publications and exchange at all levels.-

The GLWR has during the last four decades been operating a free "**Legal Counseling and Social Support Service**" on a weekly basis on matters of domestic violence, divorce, child abuse, child custody, alimony and other problems involved in family conflict. These services are available to members and non-members alike and are run by specially qualified members of the Board.

## Josephine Butler Society, UK

During the last year the JBS Executive Committee has been following the progress of the proposed changes in legislation regarding prostitution in England and Wales under the Policing and Criminal Justice Bill of 2008/9. Members have attended several related conferences. The Committee has also been considering the various policies being promoted in other countries to assist the women involved in prostitution but deter men clients involved in the trade, as well as the negative aspects of such policies. The latter seem to prevail. The JBS policy has always been to procure just legislation for women engaged in prostitution and proper concern for their wellbeing. They have been made aware of recent zealous police activity in London in closing small brothels where uncoerced women have been working. This has resulted in the withdrawal of confidence by such women in the various agencies working to assist them, and increasing difficulties for the agencies in obtaining access to them. It is feared that some women will turn to street prostitution with its attendant dangers.

Accordingly, our Chairman wrote a letter on behalf of the Society to the Select Committee at the House of Commons, [which scrutinizes introduced Bills to Parliament], drawing attention to this development. We suggested a more benign approach to enable two women privately working together for safety, to do so without undue harassment by the police. We suggest that this arrangement could be called a 'collective' or co-operative.

The JBS will continue to watch the deliberations of our Parliament as the Bill progresses, and will comment as seems appropriate.



Josephine Butler



## Vrouwenbelangen , The Netherlands

**Name:** Lyda Verstegen

**Email:** lydakist@wxs.nl

**Affiliate:** Vrouwenbelangen

**Email:** vrouwenbelangen@live.nl

**Date:** 24-04-09

**Highlights (maximum 3 points)** preferably relating to the IAW Action Programme, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Symposium on human rights education, October 2008
2. cd courageous women
3. symposium on European elections and the economic crisis

### Justice/Human Rights

In 2008 Vrouwenbelangen hosted the IAW Board Meeting. Delegates and members were received by the chairwoman of the House of Representatives, the mayor and councilwomen of The Hague and the IIAV. IIAV, the International Information Centre and Archives of the Women's movement is where the archives of IAW are resting.

Our focus for the side event was on human rights (also because it was 60 years after the UN Declaration. We dedicated an issue of our magazine to all aspects of Human Rights. At a symposium in the Peace Palace board members and external experts talked about their ways of educating for the implementation of human rights.

We supported a campaign for reproductive rights in the Netherlands.

An issue of our magazine in 2007 was dedicated to permanent education.

In March at the CSW meeting Vrouwenbelangen supported the letter to the Pakistani government about the right to education for girls. We also wrote to our government and the embassy in Islamabad about the infringement of the Taliban on women's rights.

### Democracy

Economy-European Elections-Empowerment.

In February 2009 Vrouwenbelangen organised a symposium to ask attention for the elections for the European Parliament in June.

In 2008 we supported the campaign of the European Women's Lobby about equal representation.

We campaigned for active participation in the elections for our Water Authorities.

A Vrouwenbelangen commission in Rotterdam helped design and execute a training for future women in politics in Surinam- at their request. They succeeded in raising funds for that project.

A women's group in Kiev invited Lyda Verstegen to a symposium to explain the history of women's rights, especially divorce law, in the Netherlands and highlight the disastrous influence of corruption on women.

## **Peace**

Anje Wiersinga was instrumental in drawing attention to the right of women in Kosovo to participate in conflict resolution.

## **Prejudice and false images of women**

The Vrouwenbelangen group in North Holland produced a cd with pictures and short biographies of Courageous Women from the countries of our visiting board members, as a memento of the Board Meeting.

In 1907 Vrouwenbelangen asked the government for support for an scientific institute to eliminate prejudice and false images of women. We did not succeed.

All the issues of our magazine give positive images of impressive women, including parlementarians.

As always Joke Sebus produced the IAW electronic newsletter with news about (campaigns for) women.



## Kvenrettindafelag Islands, Iceland

**Name:** Halldora Traustadottir

**Email:** halldora@krfi.is

**Affiliate** The Icelandic Women's Rights Association **Email:** krfi@krfi.is

**Date:** 27 April 2009

### Highlights

1. Advocacy for equal gender representation among the political parties' Parliament candidates in the Parliamentary election in April 2009 as well as in the Municipality election to be held in May 2010.
2. Advocacy for the criminalizing of the buying of sex.
3. CEDAW 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a conference.

The Icelandic Women's Rights Association's (IWRA) former chairman, Thorbjorg Inga Jonsdottir, stepped down in April 2008 and the vice-chairman, Margret K. Sverrisdottir, took over the chair. Margret has worked with IWRA since beginning of this century and has been the vice-chairman for many years. She is a vice city councilor and works as a project manager at the International Collaboration Institute at the University of Iceland.

In May 2008, IWRA cooperated with an international movement called "Standing Women". Women – and men – were encouraged to stand in silence for 5 minutes for a better world. IWRA took the leading role in collaborating with other women's organizations in Iceland to join and encourage their members.

In June, IWRA publication: *19. júní* (June 19<sup>th</sup>) came out. It's the 49<sup>th</sup> year the magazine is published. June 19<sup>th</sup> was the day women (40 years and older) obtained suffrage in Iceland in 1915 and has since been a day of celebration within the women's movement. IWRA, in collaboration with other women's movements, celebrated the day by going on a guided tour in Reykjavik's centre called "Women's Paths", under the guidance of the managing director of the Icelandic Women's Archives Institute. The tour ended at Kvennaheimilid Hallveigarstadir, the "Women's Home at Hallveigarstadir", the address of IWRA and two other women's organizations in Iceland.

IWRA has hosted a few public meetings and conferences during the working year between Annual meetings (April 2008 to March 2009). The focus during this period has been on women's political participation.

In September 2008 IWRA set up an open meeting under the headline: *Listing the candidates of political parties – Responsibility of Political Parties*. Under this theme we discussed the gender balance of political party candidates and their responsibility in that regard-. On these lists the gender balance is usually quite even but the men have usually occupied the so-called "secure" seats, resulting in a much higher percentage of male members of Parliament than female. The conclusion of the meeting was that it was the responsibility of the political parties to make sure women and men are equally represented in such lists and that a parliament bill, submitted by a female parliamentarian of the Progressive Party, should be passed. The bill urges the

authorities to take measures in amplifying the numbers of women candidates in the upcoming municipality election in 2010.

A conference was held in January, on the 102nd anniversary of IWRA, on gender and economic crisis. The financial crisis has hit Iceland hard. Three experts gave their assessment on how it has hit the gender differently in Iceland.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, “The Women Day” according to Iceland’s old calendar, a meeting on women’s political participation was held at “Hallveigarstadir”. Women active in politics discussed their experiences as women in politics, among them the Minister of Social Affairs and Social Security, who is also a Minister for gender equality.

In March 2009 IWRA collaborated with several NGO’s as well as the University of Iceland and the Centre for Gender Equality in Iceland, in celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CEDAW convention. Four experts on CEDAW and related issues, introduced, discussed and debated on the convention in a conference well attended at a hotel in Reykjavik’s centre.

A part from that, IWRA’s representatives participated in meetings and conferences abroad. Margret Steinarsdottir, IWRA cashier, is a member of the IAW Board and IWRA also has a close cooperation with the other Nordic countries. In 2009, Iceland has the presidency of the Nordic Council’s cooperation and on that occasion, IWRA is inviting its Nordic partners to attend a meeting in September 2009 on gender and economic crisis.

Margrét Steinarsdóttir also participated in a government appointed committee to draft a Government action plan against trafficking. She also took part in the making of Iceland’s shadow report to the CEDAW Committee on the implementation of CEDAW in Iceland.

IWRA has also a thriving cooperation with several national women’s organizations and workers’ unions.

Apart from the annual magazine, IWRA also publishes four newsletters and sends to its members, who are now close to 500.

IWRA follows closely media discussions on gender issues and women’s issues, and how women are represented there. This includes advertisements and IWRA has awarded companies who do well in breaking up stereotypes of women and men’s gender roles as well as protested to those companies/institution that reproduce the stereotypical gender roles.

Lastly, we would like to mention that in Parliament election on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, women received a historical high representation at Parliament and are now 43% of the Parliamentarians. A woman is also heading the Government of Iceland, as Prime Minister, since February 1<sup>st</sup>



# **WIZO ISRAEL**

## **COMPUTER TRAINING FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN**

I believe that education and empowerment are the keys to breaking the cycles of poverty and domestic violence. That is why WIZO initiated the partnership between WIZO, the Employment Service in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Labour, and Microsoft for Computer Training for Unemployed Women,

Joint ventures promoted by a partnership between a Government body, a civic organization and a commercial entity – all-aiming to serve the community through the combined relative advantages of their respective fields.

The Project upgrades the women's level of performance and improves the quality of employment available to them. The result is an increase in income and the opportunity to make a positive change in their lives. As many of these women have never worked before and have very low esteem, introducing them to the world of computers is not sufficient. Therefore, during the course they attend WIZO empowerment workshops to acquire additional essential skills that will facilitate their integration into the labour force.

When it was initiated who could have foreseen that it would be tailor made for many of the women left unemployed as a result of the current financial crisis.

in 2007 1300 women attended 88 courses with a marginal rate of 3% drop outs only, and close to 40% of the graduates have found employment already.

In 2008/9 1,142 women attended 83 courses in 46 locations all over Israel, including minority settlements Again placement is at about 40%.

## **TRAFFICKING**

Due to their low social status and the global market for prostitution, 80% of all trafficking victims are women.

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Traffickers bring women to Israel on direct flights from their country of origin, on private yachts, and, more often, through a 'country of transit' one of the neighboring countries, to which they are flown and then smuggled across the border into Israel. The border with Egypt is the most commonly used border. Recent security problems contributed to the minimizing of the numbers coming through.

In 2001 the U.S. Foreign Office began to study the issue of human trafficking in the world, and how the authorities were dealing with it in the countries where it was taking place. The U.S. Foreign Office graded these countries according to their efforts to cut down the phenomenon. Israel was classified in the 3rd and last group, with the countries who were not doing enough to cut down the phenomenon. I am pleased that in the report that was published in 2003, Israel was raised to the 2nd group, and classed as a country which was making an effort to fight trafficking.

In 2001 Israel signed two international covenants on human trafficking, one regarding the protection of children and the second was part of a UN protocol to prevent and punish perpetrators of human trafficking

A parliamentary committee, presented a report in 2002, and its recommendations emphasized that the crime of human trafficking damages human dignity, and a person's basic right to freedom and called for extensive law enforcement to combat the phenomenon.

Amendments were also made to legislation. The Law for the Prohibition of Human Trafficking in Israel (amendment to legislation) 2003, includes: a minimum punishment for felons convicted for human trafficking, the right of the victims to receive legal advice from the State, accelerating the process for victims of trafficking to give testimony, so that they can return to their homes more quickly, an Israeli citizen or resident who has trafficked for prostitution purposes outside Israel, will be treated as if he acted in Israel. Furthermore the law which forbids the use of a place to carry out crimes was amended in 2006 to enable authorities to close down brothels.

The law prohibiting human trafficking (amendment), 2006, expands on the definition of human trafficking to include trading persons for the purpose of servitude, enforced labor, trafficking of organs, etc. The law allows the confiscation of money and property from the traders, to create a fund to be used for the fight against trafficking, the rehabilitation of the victims, and compensation for the victims who were not awarded money from the courts.

An amendment to the law regarding trafficking for the sake of prostitution calls for acceleration of the process to allow a court ruling even if only one judge is present.

Following government decision No. 2806, 1.12.02, a shelter was opened in 2004 for women who are victims of trafficking. It has undergone changes based on accumulated experience and today every victim of trafficking can stay in the shelter, whether they are giving testimony or not. The shelter has 50 places and is operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

In a follow up of the Parliamentary Committee that was published in 2006, it was stated that most of the conclusions from 2000-2004, were implemented, and that there was a significant improvement in the work of the authorities against trafficking.

In addition a Committee of Director Generals was established to begin the process of combating the problem in 2006 and on 2.12.2007 the government adopted their recommendations. On 31.5.2006 Advocate Rachel Gershony was officially appointed as the inter office liaison), between all government offices, and Non Government Organizations who are involved in preventing human trafficking – including the Authority for the Advancement of Women and the Coalition to Fight Trafficking in Women.

As a result of these activities, in 2007, the State Department of the US took Israel off the follow up list and presented Rachel Gershony with the title, 'A hero of modern

times', as a sign of their appreciation for her work as a liaison, and the steps that Israel was taking in order to stop trafficking. Adv. Gershony was chosen, together with another eight representatives, from various countries around the world.

#### BAN SEXIST ADVERTISING

This year to mark the 2009 International Women's Day, WIZO launched a media campaign to raise the awareness to the damage caused by advertisements exploiting the female body and image and to promote the concept that in this day and age there is no room to use women's sexuality to promote products.

The campaign included a competition to choose the most offensive and insulting advertisements that were aired this past year (since The 2008 International Working Woman's Day to date). an ethic code was put in place to prohibit sexist and pornographic advertising within Tel-Aviv. Various sexist papers distributed for free at food booths and accessible to all ages were collected and binned. A Committee composed of representatives from women's organizations; the Press Council and several celebrities chose the most offensive and insulting advertisements.

The campaign received massive media exposure and a debate on Sexuality and Sexism in Advertisements was conducted on a very popular TV debate show and a WIZO representative was invited to appear in the dynamic and interesting debate.

On 8 March 2009, 2009 International Women's Day in the presence of Members of Knesset, representatives of women's organizations and the media – the five most sexist advertisements were chosen. WIZO also prepared a short film that was loaded on youtube presenting the five "shamed advertisements". In March 2009 it was the most viewed short film on the site. The most important result is that the five most offensive and insulting advertisements, albeit, very popular and public attracting have been removed from the television.

#### THE ISRAEL PRIZE

Within the festive celebrations marking its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the State of Israel bestowed upon WIZO the prestigious Israel Prize for lifetime achievement to improve and advance the status of women, the Community and the Society in Israel. The Israel Prize recognizes WIZO's past and present blessed work and motivates us to continue to do even better and greater things in the future, no matter what the circumstances.

*Helena Glaser, President, World WIZO – 4/2009*

### League of Women Voters of Victoria

**Name:** Liz Prideaux, President; Sheila Byard, Secretary,  
**IAW Associate member:** League of Women Voters of Victoria  
**Email:** lwvoters@vicnet.net.au  
**Date:** May 1, 2009

#### Highlights

1. Australia's accession to the CEDAW Optional Protocol announced in November 2008
2. Celebration of the Centenary of Women being able to Vote in the State of Victoria
3. Participation in the preparation of a National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women.

**Report:** Progress made with the Action Programme of the International Alliance of Women 2008-2010, as adopted 34<sup>th</sup> IAW Congress held in Dehli.

A highlight for the League of Women Voters of Victoria, Australia, during the past year has been the creation of its new website which shows the League's strong connection to the IAW and the implementation of the IAW Action Programme. Fern Smith has worked with members of the League to achieve this outcome.

We are delighted that long-term League Treasurer Patricia Goble will once again travel overseas to represent Australian women, this time to the IAW Heiden Assembly. Pat is the only Australian women – apart from the late Cecily Storey to have attended all four of the UN Women's Conferences.

Main points about progress on the IAW Action Program:

#### 1. Justice-Human Rights

In Australia the accession to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW was announced in November and has now entered into force. Members of the League have campaigned for many years for this working with the United Nations Association of Australia Status of Women Network, and members joined in the final push by drafting submissions to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Treaties.

Over the last year there has been much activity especially by IAW affiliated organizations calling for a national scheme of paid parental leave; worsening economic conditions now made it less likely that this will be implemented in 2009-10. Such change in policy would enable the removal of one of the two reservations Australia has to CEDAW. The other reservation, prohibiting engagement of women in frontline combat, seems likely to remain in place for the present.

In relation to other IAW objectives relating to the UN human rights treaty system, the League and its members have engaged in a variety of other collaborations, including within the Australian government's structures for consultation with the women's sector and the Shadow report process for Australia's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> CEDAW report. Members are actively participating in community workshops as part of the national government's consultation 2008-9 on the proposed Charter of Rights and Responsibilities. Unfortunately Charters of this type in the Australian States and Territories have focused mainly on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

## **2. Justice – Elimination of Violence:**

The League has supported , through its partnerships with other women's organisations, the group of eminent women, led by Past-President of UNIFEM Australia Libby Lloyd, enquiring to ways to end violence against women and children especially in aboriginal communities; the publication of this report has been several times delayed possibly while the Australian Government considers what measures of implementation can be adopted in the 2009 Budget .

## **3. Justice – Democracy:**

Since its establishment in 1945 the League has continued to campaign for equality of representation.

Victoria was the cradle of the movement for women to vote and be elected to parliament and local councils. Despite Australia permitting most women to participate on the basis of equality from 1902, Victoria was the last state in Australia to permit women to vote, and denied women the right to stand for a seat in the lower house until 1924.

League members have taken a very active part in the year-long centenary celebrations of the Adult Suffrage Act. League publication of Mary Allinson's work 'Early Women Candidate for the Parliament of Victoria' was a highlight of the past 12 months.

In November 2008 League President Liz Prideaux took an active role in the organizing of a Study of Parliament group (Inter-Parliamentary Union) seminar addressed by women fore-runners – first woman Premier, first woman Speaker, first woman Cabinet Secretary, and first woman to be member of the Upper House.

On March 30 2009, with support of the Bessie Rischbieth Trust, and thanks to the efforts of Vice-President Deborah Towns, the members of the League, women MPs and women municipal councilors, were joined by a hundred students at the Parliament of Victoria with the Minister of Women's Affairs to celebrate the Proclamation of the 1909 Act.

## **4. Justice – Peace:**

There has been a strengthening of work on inter-faith dialogue in Australia. A very successful program JCM brings together young people from the three Abrahamic faiths, and sends them in teams to talk about the need for tolerance into schools on request.

Melbourne will host the periodic 'Parliament of the World's Religions' in December 2009. We look forward to welcoming members of IAW member organization who may visit Melbourne at that time.

The Millennium Development Goals: In Australia as elsewhere there has been a concern that gender-mainstreaming may reduce the flow to the most vulnerable women and children in the Pacific region of development aid programs. On the days preceding the opening of the 'Parliament of the World's Religions', a major conference is to be held in relation to Millennium Development Goals #3 and #5. This is modeled on the women/faith/development 'Breakthrough' summit held in Washington DC in April 2008. The Melbourne event 'Asia-Pacific Breakthrough' is being led by the International Women's Development Agency. It is hoped that the funding assistance obtained for the secretariat for the event will enable the emergence of a new alliance committed to lifting Australia's global giving and to ensure a clear focus on outcomes for women and families.

## Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia

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WEL Australia, supported by a number of active branches particularly NSW, Victoria, WA and the ACT, continues to work to promote its goal of “creating a society where women’s participation and potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected...”.

During the year, WEL has been a strong contributor to a large number of Government enquiries and reviews dealing with issues of concern to women. In the Federal Government arena, key submissions in this past year were made in relation to:

- Pay Equity Enquiry by the House of Representative Standing Committee on Employment and Workplace Relations
- Tax Review chaired by Mr Ken Henry, Secretary of the Treasury
- Retirement Income Enquiry
- Senate Enquiry into Child Care

Domestic violence and violence against women has been another key area where WEL has made submissions at both Federal and State level. In NSW, we have criticised the continuing lack of emphasis on preventative strategies and on achieving attitude change, as evidenced in the recommendations found in the State Government’s recently published “NSW Domestic & Family Violence Strategies”.

Together with other women’s organisations, WEL has been actively lobbying in the past year for the establishment of Paid Parental Leave. We made a submission to the Productivity Commission commissioned by the Federal Government to examine this issue, made presentations at the Commission’s public hearings and have initiated a number of lobbying campaigns in support of the introduction of some form of paid parental leave. While the Productivity Commission’s interim report released on 29 September 2008 has been positive (its final report has not been released), we are concerned that the Federal Budget due in early May will drop this important reform due to the current economic climate.

A more successful campaign was undertaken by WEL along with other organisations to remove the existing Federal Government ban on overseas (AusAid) funding for family planning programs that include abortion services or counselling. This ban had been put in place in 1996, resulting in a significant decline in AusAid funding across the range of family planning activities, contributing to poor maternal and child health outcomes. The Federal Government announced the lifting of this ban in March 2009.

In NSW, WEL took a major role this year in organising International Women’s Day. WEL NSW also continues to hold its very successful annual “Ednas” – an evening dedicated to Edna Ryan who was a great activist for women’s equal pay, which celebrates feminist achievement in many fields. Our next “Ednas” evening will be held on 8 May.

A major win was achieved this year in Victoria, where WEL Victoria together with many other women's organisations lobbied and won the removal of abortion from the Victorian Crimes Act allowing legal abortion up to 24 weeks. This major achievement represents the culmination of years of effort.



WEL Victoria was actively involved in celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victorian Elections. We applied for and received a grant from the Victorian Government to stage 3 major events, magnificently organised by WEL member and artist Fern Smith.

These events involved the publication of interviews with 10 older women about their lives and how society had changed over their lifetimes, with the participation of RMIT university students and graphic artist students; associated discussion and talks held by WEL members; a display of about 50 models (about 25cms high) of Vida Goldstein and other suffragettes made by artist Ursula Dutkiewicz and a discussion around banners produced by Fern Smith and the themes they represented.

These artistic items were finally displayed in the grounds of the Victorian Parliament to celebrate the passing of the Adult Suffrage Bill in November 1908. The Act was signed on 31 March 1909. WEL celebrated this event together with many other women's organisations, including IAW Associate members, League of Women Voters Victoria and Union of Australian Women Victoria, both of which also organised events through the year.

Adding to the Centenary celebrations, the Victorian Women's Trust ran a series of events and, with the approval of the IAW, re-printed a booklet written by Vida Goldstein about the early struggles for suffrage, initially published by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

WEL WA (as well as WEL SA) is now amalgamating with WEL Australia (rather than running as a separate office) in order to concentrate on improving the effectiveness of its feminist activism, attracting more members and honouring the contribution of past members in response to the changing profile of our membership. WEL WA has set up an email chat group under 'WELWest@yahoogroups.com'. WEL SA has established a Facebook presence.

WEL WA has also set up the "The Barbara Buick Women's Electoral Lobby Prize" in perpetuity at Murdoch University for the best student in the field of Women and Development to honour a member who tirelessly worked in the field to improve education and financial sustainability for women and the girl child. Barbara Buick's work on discrimination against women in Papua New Guinea in the 1960s and 1970s was honoured with an Order of Australia (AM) by the Australian Government in 1996.

# Union of Australian Women (Victoria) Inc.

**Name: Anne Sgro President**

**Associate: Union of Australian Women**

**Email: uawv@vicnet.net.au**

**Date: April 2009**

## **Highlights**

1. Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria and the many issues raised in celebration
2. Campaign for Paid Parental Leave
3. Women's right to control their bodies

## **Report:**

A major context for activity for the Union of Australian Women in Victoria in 2008 was the celebration of the Centenary of Women's Suffrage. The UAW organized three events with the aim of celebrating the past as inspiration for participation now and in the future. It was wonderful to recognize and pay tribute to the determined, strong women who waged such a long campaign over one hundred years ago for the right to vote.

- The UAW supported the national campaign for Paid Parental Leave for Australian workers and we hope that provision will be made for it in the 2009 May Budget. It is shameful that Australia and the United States of America are the only two industrialized countries that have no legislated leave.
- We campaigned successfully, with other women's groups, for the decriminalization of abortion in Victoria, and also for the removal of restrictions on family planning in Australian aid to women in developing countries.
- The campaign to eliminate violence against women in Australia and internationally is ongoing. Many improvements to women's rights and safety have been made in Victoria thanks to legislation and a supportive Police Commissioner.
- We continue to support the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, particularly through the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan,
- and we continue to support the rights of asylum seekers and their families in Australia.

We have lobbied on these issues and many others, and continue to collaborate and network with other women's groups and organizations that support human rights. We publish a monthly Newsletter, produce a weekly program on Community Radio, hold regular public discussion meetings with speakers, write submissions to government and have produced two travelling photographic exhibitions that promote information and discussion about women, equity and rights.

The Union of Australian Women Victoria is a strong voice for women, peace, human rights and social justice.

# Women's Rights Movement of Philippines

**Name:** Villa Granada de Guia      **Email:** wrmp2004@ yahoo.com  
**Ms. Norma Junio-Lozano**  
**Associate: Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines (WRMP)**  
**Date: April 25, 2009**

The organization is now 50 years old. An organization, who reached at golden age is a testament to its commitment that women are capable of creating a better world. It has dedicated to continue advocacy in the women's rights and empowering Filipino women through civic education. For the year 2007-2008, the organization focused on the promotion of women's rights and women related laws. Various activities that shield women from all forms of discrimination and abuse are as follows:

DATE/VENUE	TOPICS/ ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS / IMPACT
November 28, 2008 / Maynilad Room, Manila	Dinner Dance: Celebrating for Fifty Years of Empowering Women by providing posthumous award to the WRMP founder, Atty. Fernanda S. Balboa	All members and other networks/ partners in project implementation celebrated its golden anniversary. Solidarity and congratulatory messages from different Legislators and Government Officials and line agencies were sent to the organization.
August 26, 2008 / Brgy. Bagbaguin, Caloocan City	Symposium on " <i>Pang-aabuso ng Droga, Alak, Karahasan sa Kababaihan</i> " and or Anti-Drug Abuse and Alcoholism and Violence Against Women and their Abused Children (RA 9262) by Judge Raymond Vallega	Women were able to orient on the effects of drugs and alcoholism to health. The law that protected women and children in crisis situation provided avenues to speak-up their concerns.
March 7, 2008 / Malacañang	Participation in Women's Month Celebration in Malacañang Palace with the President of the Republic of the Philippines	Solidarity support and commemorating the international women's day where Her Excellency spoke on the important role of women in the family and in nation building.
January 26, 2008 / Club Filipino	Symposium on Filipina Overseas Workers, Issues and Challenges by Dr. Carolyn I. Sobritchea	Overseas people were able to share their experience living outside Philippines towards resolution of their issue
DATE/VENUE	TOPICS/ ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

		<b>/ IMPACT</b>
December 15, 2007 / Emerald Restaurant, Roxas Boulevard, Manila	WRMP Christmas Luncheon hosted by <i>Mrs. Lourdes L. Pimentel</i>	Members of the Board
November 24, 2007/ Club Mwah, former Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City	Joint fund raising project “ <i>The Dazzle and Drama of the Club Mwah Follies</i> ” with PCPNPROLAI chaired by Jana Mora, President Villa Granada de Guia and Ms. Norma Lozano,	Solicited funds were used in the operation of the organization and projects
October 13, 2007/ Romulo Hall, NEDA Building, Makati City	Forum on Ethics of Environment, Climate Change and Ecology in celebrating the United Nations (UN). Said activity was sponsored by the WRMP with Bahai Community of the Philippines. Guest Speaker was Agnes Sharit Aliman, UN Information Center Officer and Linda Width, Director of International Labor	Participated in the call of global warming to preserve natural balance of ecosystem and healthy environment
July 2008 every 9AM to 10 AM	Radio Air Time with WRMP Officers	Public information on women’s rights.
April 14, 2007 Jade Vine, Executive Inn, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila	Symposium on the Rights of Women discussed topics on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and the Family Code by Judge Aurora Reciña</li> <li>• Coping with Violence Against Women by Atty. Clara Rita A. Padilla of Engender Rights</li> </ul>	Orientation on the women’s legal rights and rights to basic social services. A total of 150 women leaders who came from NGOs, GOs and civic organizations in the Philippines.

WRMP belongs and affiliated with National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) and National Federation of Women of the Philippines (NFWP) and network with other local and national organization.

For the last 50 years, the WRMP has been visible in the forefront initiating and promoting women activities towards empowerment.

**THANK YOU and MABUHAY**



WRMP Membership Campaign



WRMP President Villa Granada de Guia, Treasurer Norma J. Lozano and other WRMP Board Members attended the International Women's Month, March 6, 2009 at Malacañang Palace with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.





WRMP Symposium on Zero Waste Management and Recycling at Bayambang Pangasinan attended by teachers, barangay leaders and abandoned parents.