

Suggestions for Actions and Solidarity in 2008

by Mariëtte van Beek

- Design and distribute donation cards for people to donate an amount of money to a women peacemakers group once or on a regular basis.
- Organize a special worship service for women peacemakers and collect money for a women peacemakers program.
- Have yourself invited during a gathering or lectures series for students in the field of conflict and gender studies, discuss the money issue, brainstorm about ways for improvement and take note of it. Invite students to do research on the topic.
- Hold a 'money for women peacemakers' contest with prizes for the most original and practical way for women peacemakers to generate money.
- Organize a lottery or an auction for a women peacemakers' cause. Ask women business owners to donate products for this purpose. Organize a stock market: 'take a share in peace!'.
- Organize a benefit gala for a women peacemakers' cause, and invite well-known artists to perform for free. Invite radio and television to record the event. Ask them to mention the bank account number for the good cause while broadcasting.
- Sell (handmade or factory made) chocolate coins or the 'sweet taste of peace' at the occasion of your local fair or other festivity. Think of other possible products, e.g. 'a peace of cake', 'my honey for peace', and the like and donate the profit to a local women peacemakers group.
- Translate and reprint articles from this pack (please credit the pack and don't forget to send us a copy!) to educate others about the issues.
- Approach women's groups within other organizations (e.g. the trade unions) and discuss the possibility of a collection campaign amongst their members.
- Approach schools and discuss the possibility of a collection campaign related to an educational project for the children.
- Form a group of trainers for active nonviolence/peace education and ask fees for your trainings at institutions and schools. Use the money for women peacemakers projects, your own or those of others.
- Order, download or send the link to this action pack to other women peacemakers, individuals and organizations in your community.
- Invite financial administrators and fundraisers of different women peacemakers groups to come together to speak on their experiences with fundraising, writing proposals, and

drawing narrative and financial reports for their donors. Let them exchange ideas and suggestions for fundraising, take note of them and distribute them amongst relevant parties, inside or outside your community.

- Invite an experienced fundraiser to give a workshop on fundraising, in a separate session or integrated into your training sessions for women peacemakers.
- Organize a 'funders market': a wide range of funders present themselves in market stands for women peacemakers to ask and 'shop around'.
- Check out already existing sources (books, manuals) and courses on fundraising, and list them.
- Invite leaders of local, national and international women peace organizations to draw up a letter for women's funds and other donors, to draw attention to a particular position of women in war and conflict zones and UNSCR 1325, and ask parties to earmark extra money for women's efforts to build peace. Stress the financial obligations of governments related to 1325.
- Organize a demonstration at the time governmental budgets are discussed and decided, and stress that money for women peacemaking is more beneficial to society than money for the military apparatus, missions and the like. Try to talk to representatives of political parties, the special commissions and working groups concerned, and lobby for your cause. Invite journalists to write about your actions and the financial obligations of governments related to 1325.
- Invite interns of high vocational schools for financial administration and account management to work with your organization for a few moments to systematize your financial administration or develop a fundraising strategy.
- Organize festive meals on the occasion of national or religious holidays, international women's day (8 March) or international women's day for peace and disarmament (24 May) and take a collection. 'Food for thought money...' and send the money to a women peacemakers initiative.