

## May 24 Report



On May 24 2006, in celebration of International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) in Partnership with Vrouwen voor Vrede and Mama Cash, organized a public event in Amsterdam for the third consecutive year on the theme: Women Resisting Violence.

The event was kicked off with the opening of the global exhibition, '*1000 PeaceWomen across the Globe*', hosted by the Dutch organization Vrouwen voor Vrede (Women for Peace) and sponsored by Mama Cash. The exhibition depicted one thousand women from all over the world who have been nominated for the noble prize for peace. Of the five nominees from the Netherlands, four were present and open to questions from the general public in the concept of a 'living library'.

Next, five experts from diverse backgrounds (WPP, IKV, SRTVH and WILPF) came together to discuss issues such as UN resolution 1325, women and peacebuilding, dealing with conflicts constructively, sex trafficking and football! The focus of the discussion was on Eastern Europe and several of the panelists highlighted this with stories and examples from the Balkan, the Caucasus, but also from Kashmir and Rwanda.



In the afternoon, participants could either follow a workshop on 'Active Nonviolence' conducted by WPP, or watch the screening of Ursula Biemann's video essay on Trafficking: '*Remote Sensing*' (53 min). "Remote Sensing roams through the territories of the global sex trade moving us from orbit into women's lives from Eastern Europe to East Asia." Later on, a second film made by Amnesty International the Netherlands was screened: '*Hij betaalt voor 1 nacht, Zij met haar leven*' (23 min). Showing the trafficked of two Romanian girls, the documentary illustrates how the war in Yugoslavia impacted women all over the world, especially those living in the former Yugoslavia.



In an effort to present information on peace work and gender issues to the wider public an 'Information Market' was set up, presenting the work of different NGOs ranging from the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), to Musicians without Borders. The 'Information Market' even saw representation from overseas with the participation of the International Museum of Women (IMOW) in San Francisco as part of the partnership between IMOW and WPP in an online exhibition for May the month of 'Culture and Conflict'.

Attracting over 70 people, young and old, International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament 2006 in Amsterdam, was a whooping success! So much so that partners are already eagerly discussing the continuation of the event next year, when the theme is likely to be: Girl Power (girls overcoming violence).