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VOICE FROM THE FIELD: THE NETHERLANDS LAUNCHES SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

On December 19th, 2011, Dutch Ministries and civil society met for the signing of the second Dutch National Action Plan (2012-2015) in Leiden, the Netherlands. On this day politicians and civil society representatives signed the second National Action Plan (NAP), promising to fulfill its ambitious objectives and goals. IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program also contributed to the formulation of the plan, and was one of the signatories.

During the event, it was stressed repeatedly by different speakers that women are not only victims of war, they also have an crucial role to play in building peace. The United Nations acknowledged the need to incorporate women in peace building processes in 2000, and as such ratified the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325). So far, only 32 countries worldwide have approved NAPs for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Even though UNSCR1325 is considered to be *the* foundation document on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), it is still largely unknown in many conflict-affected areas and amongst the broader international cooperation community.

Drafted for the period 2012-2015, the second Dutch NAP is a continuation and an elaboration of the previous NAP, which covered the period 2008-2011. With renewed energy the signatories continue to commit themselves to supporting women who have the courage to stand up as leaders in conflict mediation, resolution, reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.

In order to support an enabling environment for women's leadership and political participation, NAP signatories promised to contribute to four main objectives. These objectives are:

- ❖ Equal participation of women and men at all decision-making levels in peace and reconstruction processes;
- ❖ Integration of a gender perspective and UNSCR1325 in policies and actions of all Dutch signatories concerning fragile states and countries in transition (DAC countries) and peace building and reconstruction efforts in these states;
- ❖ Increased awareness and public support in the Netherlands, the European Union, United Nations, and other regional and international bodies and their member states with regard to the gender dimension of conflict and the importance of UNSCR 1325;
- ❖ Effective and efficient cooperation between NAP II signatories and other relevant stakeholders to support worldwide implementation of UNSCR1325.

To support consistency with existing work of NAP II-signatories, cooperation will intensify specifically in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan and the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region.

The added value of this NAP is its function as a tool for exchange of information, discussion and increased joint action amongst all actors working on the implementation of UNSCR1325. Also, by putting their signatures on this document, the Dutch NAP-signatories made their intentions visible. This Action Plan is thus a reassurance of commitment of all signatories to intensify their work on the implementation of UNSCR1325 in the upcoming four years.

All signatories of this NAP consider local women and women (peace) organizations living the daily realities of violence as the key stakeholders of this plan. They are the drivers of change and their opinions regarding actions that are needed are leading. This means that NAP II-signatories adopt an approach that is demand-driven. After all, the Dutch NAP II is about those women and men who are actively working for the creation of peaceful and safe communities.

For more information on the Dutch National Action Plan, please visit: www.nap1325.nl

VOICE FROM THE FIELD: 'BEATING IS...SHAMEFUL - MEN & WOMEN SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' IN LEBANON

By: Lise Paaskesen

The 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women acts as a sounding board for women and men to act against the injustices that women experience in everyday life. In Lebanon, the message of this year's 16 Days Campaign was put forward as 'Beating is...Shameful - Men & Women Say No to Violence Against Women'. This article celebrates the global 16 Days Campaign and focuses on how the campaign was translated into action by NGO ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality in Lebanon. WPP spoke to its founder and director, Ghida Anani.

ABAAD is a non-profit, non-politically affiliated, non-religious civil association, which aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. ABAAD seeks to promote women's equality and participation through, amongst others, gender mainstreaming, engaging men, eliminating discrimination and advancing and empowering women to participate effectively and fully in their communities.

Each year ABAAD commits to the global 16 Days Campaign to end violence against women in Lebanon. In a society largely tolerant of violence against women, the Campaign brings to the fore public debate around the proposed Family Violence Bill. The Bill, which would criminalize physical, mental and sexual violence against women, was approved by the former Council of Ministers. In June 2011, however, the Bill was denied on the grounds that Sharia law protects the role and the status of women and includes governing legal issues related to the Muslim family. With the new government, public debate renouncing the decision to reject the Bill continues. ABAAD echoes public opinion and believes a campaign with a peaceful and inspiring message from youth agents for societal transformation - focusing on root causes of violence in society - can help bring about an end to violence against women.

Lebanon is a society dominated by men and patriarchal social norms, Ghida explained: *Men are predominantly societies' gatekeepers in the Middle East, they dominate the private and public spheres (decision makers, legislation, community and religious leaders etc. Now, women have called for a broader definition of security to include human security, embracing human rights and equal rights. These currents lend themselves to a new socio-economic and cultural landscape'.*

ABAAD embraces the belief that women's security involves engaging men, and that men are 'a wellspring of untapped energy that can bring about positive sustainable change'. In this light, ABAAD, in cooperation with the International Medical Corps (IMC), organized a training workshop for 8 Lebanese and 8 Iraqi young men. During the training workshop, implemented in partnership with Wonderbox Productions, these 16 young men learned aspects of the filmmaking process, as well as about gender roles, gender equality, and the importance of engaging men in ending violence against women. As a result, 8 TV-spots were produced for the benefit of the Campaign. These TV-spots were aired widely on Iraqi and Lebanese national television during the Campaign.

Asked about the impact of the training on the young men, Ghida stated that the trainees now understand that they must support women in their struggles against violence against women. They did not only put this belief into practice through the making of the videos, they still continue to do so today by actively volunteering with ABAAD and by contributing to TV shows and interviews. *'Men have the power to persuade other men to act in ending violence against women. These young men can act as role models for other young men, who can in turn then also act as role models for other (young) men'*, Ghisa states.

Though not the only outlet for voicing the Campaign's message (flyers were also disseminated and ads appeared in newspapers, amongst others) social media was deliberately adopted as a tool to convey the message of the Campaign. The usage of multiple media tools allows the message to spread to a wider audience, leading to individual or shared actions.

Each of the 8 TV-spots conveys a message that addresses the general public at large and can be streamed on YouTube. Click on a link below to watch the video (only available in Arabic):

Video 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhoCYerwqFg>

Video 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oj0GjcLhdVI>

Video 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=|5bmZ8UubUE>

Video 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lou8c3ov1g>

Video 5: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNaDTtx4nuU>

Video 6: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz3v4e30eBc>

Video 7: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6AfE-g98pY>

Video 8: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5HEAuABEFI>

CALLS

1. Call for participation: Registration for the 2012 AWID Forum is now Open!

Join Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) at the 2012 AWID International Forum where 2,000 women's rights leaders and activists from around the world will come together to strategize, network, celebrate, and learn in a highly charged atmosphere that fosters deep discussions and sustained personal and professional growth. The discussion will deepen AWID's understanding of economic injustice, equip AWID to engage in economic debates and to devise strategies to transform and reclaim economic power. Early Bird rates are in effect until Jan 6, 2012, so register soon to take advantage of the lower rate.

Visit the new 2012 Forum website and find out more about the Forum theme, program, logistical information and answers to frequently asked questions by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12/>

Or, to register, please visit: <http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12/registration/>

2. Stand with the Freedom Riders

A small number of brave Palestinians risked attack and arrest to commit a forbidden act - they boarded a public bus. Six brave freedom riders were forcibly removed from the bus and arrested after entering Jerusalem. As they were dragged off they cried out that they would continue their struggle until the Palestinian people were free. We will stand with them until they are released and in their continued direct actions for freedom and equality. Palestinian people are taking the fight into their own hands, one public service at a time. And they're doing it with the simple, and unstoppable moral force of nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

To support the freedom riders, please click here:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/palestine_freedom_riders/?vc

3. Call for applications: UN Trust Fund 16th Grant Cycle

Deadline: 19 January 2012 at 23.59 EST (GMT - 5)

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women is accepting applications for its 16th grant cycle (2011) from government authorities at the national and local levels, civil society organizations and networks — including non-governmental, women's and community-based organizations and coalitions and operational research institutions — and UN Country Teams in partnership with governments and civil society organizations.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund/application-guidelines/>

4. Call for submissions: Make the Connection!

Where were you when you first “connected your rights”? That is, when did you first realise that your rights are truly inalienable, even online? The Connect your rights! campaign is calling for submissions of blogs, poems, digital stories, artwork and other visuals to help others make the connection.

Do you have a story you’d like to share? Please send your blogs, images, videos or other submissions to grady@apc.org with the heading “Make the connection”.

Or, visit the website for more information: <http://www.apc.org/en/projects/internet-rights-are-human-rights>

5. Take Action: The Observatory: Syria: Arrest And Incommunicado Detention Of Ms. Razan Ghazzawi

According to the information received, on December 4, 2011, Syrian immigration police at Syria/Jordan border arrested Ms. Razan Ghazzawi, while she was heading to Amman, Jordan, to attend the Forum of Defenders and Media Freedom in the Arab World as the representative of the SCM. No information could be obtained as to her current place of detention.

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) is deeply concerned with the arrest and incommunicado detention of Ms. Ghazzawi, and fears for her physical and psychological integrity. The Observatory calls upon the Syrian authorities to take prompt action in order to disclose the fate and whereabouts of Ms. Ghazzawi and release her immediately as her arrest seems to merely aim at sanctioning her human rights activities.

For more information on how you can take action, please visit: <http://awid.org/Get-Involved/Urgent-Actions3/Take-Action-The-Observatory-Syria-Arrest-and-Incommunicado-detention-of-Ms.-Razan-Ghazzawi>

6. Give a gift: GlobalGiving Gift Cards

GlobalGiving begins with the dedicated, tenacious individuals who are driving change in their communities. GlobalGiving begins with you! In the spirit of giving, consider giving a gift card with a heart. Purchase a gift card to help empower trafficked girls in India through education, combat malnutrition with beekeeping in Sudan or keep girls at risk out of gangs in Los Angeles. Prices start at 10USD.

For more information or to purchase a gift card, please visit:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/dy/v2/content/themes.html?themeName=Women%20and%20Girls>

RESOURCES

1. IFOR’s Annual Report is online!

The Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) is a program of the International Fellowship Of Reconciliation (IFOR). IFOR members share a vision of a world where conflicts are resolved through nonviolent means, where systems that foster fear and hatred are dismantled, and where justice is sought as a basis for peace. While coming from diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds, IFOR members share a common belief in the transforming power of nonviolence and reconciliation. This annual report covers all regions and topics in which IFOR partners and affiliated groups are active. Included in the report is an overview of WPP activities, such as the WPP second ToT “Overcoming Violence – Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace” in 2010 in Manila.

To download the full report in English, please follow this link: <http://www.ifor.org/> or <http://www.ifor.org/annual.htm>

2. The Generation of “A Generation on the Move: Insights into the conditions, aspirations and activism of Arab youth”

Understanding the state of mind of the activist young men and women throughout the Middle East and North African (MENA) region provides a window into the challenges Arab societies are facing today, and into the recent revolts that are driving the national social and political transformations in the Arab world. The report aims to identify and better understand key elements of young Arabs’ perspectives on themselves and their place in society.

Chapter 5 focuses on young women and girls and their experiences in growing up as an Arab woman. Amongst key findings are that gender differences firstly appear and are accentuated during adolescence, that one in three young males believes that educating boys is more important than educating girls and that young women still face limited decision-making power.

To download the full report, please visit:

http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Summary_Report_A_GENERATION_ON_THE_MOVE_AUB_IFI_UNICEF_MENARO_.pdf

3. You get what you pay for!

Would you buy 1 year of military research worth USD 69 Billion or 5 years of promoting gender equality at USD 65 Billion?

Achieving universal gender equality is an ambitious goal. It will require a shift in the way we think about gender roles and the relationship between men and women, boys and girls. Legislation needs to be changed, as well as social attitudes and norms. Serious financial resources will need to be made available. Compared to military spending, however, the amount required seems ridiculously small. In 2006 the world’s military expenditure was estimated to be US\$ 1,204 billion or US\$ 184 per capita.¹ Funding gender equality, as set out in the Millennium Development Goals, costs less than 20 percent of military spending.

To read the paper, please visit:

<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/PDF/EconomicJustice/YouGetWhatYouPayFor.pdf>

4. Make Room for Peace: A Guide to Women’s Participation in Peace Processes

This manual focuses on the participation of women organizations acting for peace in conflict affected areas.

The effectiveness of systematically including women’s civil society groups in decision-making in peace processes as a whole tends to be undervalued judging from the very limited participation of women achieved so far in the shaping of peace processes. This marginalisation is still evident even when peace and rebuilding negotiations are supported, facilitated and mediated by international third parties that are positive to democracy, gender equality and women’s rights.

This guide and manual attempts to address above mentioned weaknesses by presenting concrete tools for third parties who are serious about including women’s organizations in peace processes.

Download the manual in English, French, Arabic or Russian, by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.se/en/make-room-for-peace>

5. Gender and Statebuilding in South Sudan

South Sudan's independence ends decades of conflict as well as socio-economic and political marginalization at the hands of successive governments in Khartoum, which affected women in gender-specific ways. Independence thus opens up opportunities for women's economic and social empowerment, ensuring that the new country's political and economic structures and institutions reflect commitments to women's participation and human rights. In turn, empowering women will enable South Sudan to strengthen its economic and political structures and institutions.

Download the report by visiting: <http://www.usip.org/publications/gender-and-statebuilding-in-south-sudan>

6. Oxfam Briefing Paper: A Place at the Table: Safeguarding Women's Rights in Afghanistan

Women in Afghanistan have achieved real progress in such areas such as political participation, the rule of law and education since 2001, but these hard-won gains remain fragile. With the imminent withdrawal of international forces, there is a risk that the government may sacrifice women's rights in order to secure a political deal with the Taliban and other armed opposition groups. The government and its international partners must do much more to support Afghan women's efforts and uphold their rights while ensuring that women have a strong voice in any future negotiations and political settlements.

To download the Briefing Paper, please visit: <http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/place-table-safeguarding-women-rights-afghanistan>

7. Empowering Women for Uganda's Long-Term Health & Well-Being

Action Against Hunger's food security & livelihood programs help women overcome decades of civil war and domestic abuse.

Women provide 80 percent of food crops and comprise 70 of the agricultural workforce in Uganda, yet many have poor access to property and education. Unequal access and control of resources compromises women's economic independence and their capacity for decision making and action—all of which makes them even more vulnerable to abuse. Women also face higher health risks, few social protections and often have limited knowledge of their fundamental rights. Thousands of families across northern Uganda are slowly rebuilding their lives as they recover from two decades of civil war and displacement. This process is doubly important for the women of northern Uganda, who, as central household figures, must overcome ingrained struggles of abuse if their families are to overcome hunger and poverty.

To read the full article, please visit: http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/blog/empowering-women-ugandas-long-term-health-well-being?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+acf-usa%2Fnews+%28Action+Against+Hunger+%7C+Updates%29

8. Emerging Voices: Young Women in Lebanese Politics

Although Lebanon is known in the Middle East for its relative political openness and for the degree of freedom Lebanese women enjoy, it paradoxically has one of the lowest rates of women's political engagement in the region. This report examines the extent to which women are currently involved in politics in Lebanon, as well as the opportunities for increasing their involvement, by drawing on Alert's work with the youth wings of Lebanese political parties and a conference Alert held on the topic of promoting gender equality in political parties. The first part of this report presents diverse perspectives from Lebanese and international experts within their conference speeches, and the second part includes an analysis of interviews with Lebanese

youth, in which they reflect on their hopes, concerns and ideas for improving gender equality in Lebanese politics in the future.

Download the report, by clicking on this link: <http://www.international-alert.org/resources/publications>

9. See war through the eyes of women

Think you know war? Think again! 'Women, War & Peace' is a five-part series produced by Global Fund for Women's Board member, Abigail Disney. The series uncovers the powerful role of women building peace during war and conflict.

Watch 'Women, War & Peace' episodes by visiting the following link: <http://video.pbs.org/program/women-war-and-peace/>

Read an interview with Abigail Disney on her experiences listening to women's stories about war, by visiting: <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/impact/media-center/news-releases/163-2011/1917-q-a-a-with-abigail-disney>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. Budget Officer

Deadline: 21 January 2012 at 23:00 EST

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), based in Vilnius (Lithuania), has opened a call for applications with a view to establishing a reserve list for Contract Agents for the post of Budget Officer. Under the supervision of the Head of Administration and working in close collaboration with other colleagues, the jobholder will support the process of ensuring sound financial management of the Institute primarily by applying applicable financial processes in line with the Institute's financial regulations and preparing its annual budget.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eige.europa.eu/content/career-opportunity/eige-2011-ca-15-fg4>

2. Program Assistant/Senior Program Assistant: Women's Political Participation

Deadline: 16 Jan 2012

The Women's Political Participation Team seeks a Program Assistant/Senior Program Assistant (depending on experience) to strengthen National Democratic Institute's (NDI) women's political participation programs. This person will assist regional teams to design and implement programs, create new materials to support programs and manage special projects, as needed. The position is based in Washington DC (USA) and will include some international travel.

For more information, please consult: http://www.ndi.org/current_openings

3. Regional Change Lead - Poor Women's Right

Deadline: 9 January 2012

Oxfam believes in the principle that ensuring design and implementation of all programming with poor women's rights at the heart is the key to bring about lasting change in lives of the poor, especially women. As a member of the Regional Program Support Team, the regional adviser is expected to work closely with the Regional Program Quality Lead and programs to ensure the embedding of poor women's rights in the heart of all programming. The successful applicant will be based at the Oxfam Regional Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

For more information about the position and on how to apply, please visit: http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?news=jj&id=36980&rss=1. Click on 'Washington DC-Based'.

4. Internship at the Girl's Power Initiative

Deadline: none

Girl's Power Initiative (GPI) centres have continued to build the capacity of young persons especially women as peer educators and youth development workers through the internship program.

The internship program assists young professionals to learn and contribute to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive adolescent sexuality education programs. As an intern you will also help to further strengthen the facilitation of GPI activities in rural areas.

For more information on how to apply, please visit: <http://www.gpinigeria.org/internship.html>

5. Intern at the World Peace Academy, University of Basel

Deadline: 31 Jan 2012

The World Peace Academy MAS study program is part of the Advanced Study Centre of the University of Basel and is focused in Peace and Conflict Transformation. The program lasts 9 months and hosts students from all over the world. Therefore, we search for someone who is attracted to work in a multicultural environment and can also benefit from this experience.

The one-year period internship is voluntary (unpaid) and the working hours can be discussed upon agreement. The WPA offers accommodation in its own student house, located at a 3-minute walk from our office. Meals are to be taken care of by the intern, but the travelling costs can be discussed.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.world-peace-academy.ch/?lang=en&pid=91>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The WPP is on Facebook too! Please find us there to remain updated regularly on news and resources related to women, gender, peace, conflict resolution and gender sensitive active nonviolence. To like our page, go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=587816573#!/pages/IFOR-Women-Peacemakers-Program/116880715001196>

Or befriend us. You can find us as 'IFOR Women Peacemakers Program' or by clicking the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/ifor.wpp>

***Editors:** José de Vries and Lise Paaskesen*