

# Cross the Lines # 38

*Grenzen Overschrijden  
Franchir les lignes*



September – December 2009



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## The IFOR/WPP Africa Desk: Women Peacemakers and Advocacy Skills



Among the major setbacks for women's effective participation in peacebuilding are inadequate advocacy skills and low capacity to maintain sustained coordination and networking, which are essential requirements for amplifying and positioning their voice in any effective social change process.

In line with the WPP Africa Desk's commitment to empower African women peacemakers to pursue sustainable peace through gender-sensitive active nonviolence, the Desk partnered with South African based organization IDASA, to hold a one-week Advocacy Training for selected



women peace activists from across the African continent. This training was held in South Africa from the 14th to the 18th of September 2009, bringing together twenty English-speaking women peace activists from fourteen African countries.

The Training sought to enhance the skills of the women peace activists to be

effective change agents who can use advocacy as a tool for influencing public policy and decision making in order to promote gender-sensitive nonviolent peacebuilding. Believing firmly that advocacy is a skill that can be learnt, participants were introduced to the concept and processes of advocacy and how it contributes to policy change. Participants were further helped to identify

advocacy issues related to peace building in their various countries, and they developed country-specific strategies after setting policy-focused objectives.

As one participant expressed: *“All along, I thought advocacy meant going to the street with placards and demonstrating but I got a completely different idea. I now know that I can use different techniques and even at the community level, without being perceived wrongly”*

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Since the most effective way of achieving results in advocacy campaigns is to work as networks and coalitions, participants explored the use of networking and coalition building as a tool for effective advocacy. Perhaps the most significant outcome of the five days is the draft strategy that each participant went home with. Participants are expected to develop these strategies further, with the Desk offering to support the implementation of the best strategies.

## ***Just numbers are not enough***

*By José de Vries*



The past few months, a variety of numbers have been given another meaning in the world of women and men actively working for sustainable peace, by calling for a gender perspective in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes; 1882, 1888, and 1889 have been added to the numbers ‘1325’ and ‘1820’.

For nearly a decade now, the number ‘1325’<sup>1</sup> referred for many of these women and men to ‘the three P’s’<sup>2</sup>. United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, calls for:

- *Participation* of women at all levels of peace processes and security policy, especially at the level of political decision making;
- *Protection* of women and children in war and (post) conflict situations, especially the protection from sexual violence which is known to be part of the strategy within armed conflicts;
- *Prevention* of armed conflicts and war by implementing the gender perspective in national and international peace negotiations, activities and security policy.

June 2008, UN Security Council Resolution 1820<sup>3</sup> was passed, linking sexual violence as a tactic of war with the maintenance of international peace and security. This recognition of sexual violence as an important security issue means that actors involved in conflict and conflict resolution are required to respond when sexual violence is taking place, by adopting concrete protection and prevention measures to end the sexual violence. “1820” asserts the importance of women’s participation in all processes related to ending sexual violence in conflict, including peace talks.

<sup>1</sup> 1325 refers to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which was unanimously adopted by the Security Council in October 2000. The Resolution can be downloaded from:

[http://www.un.org/events/res\\_1325e.pdf](http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For more information, e.g. <http://www.frauensicherheitsrat.de/road-hentschel.html>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 can be downloaded from:

[http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_resolutions08.htm](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions08.htm)

Children and armed conflict were put on the international agenda, by the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1882 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. This Resolution “*strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict and all other violations of international law committed against children in situations of armed conflict.*”<sup>4</sup>. This Resolution recognises “*the reality of conflict today, where girls and boys were increasingly targeted and victimized, killed and raped, as well as recruited into armed groups*”, according to Ms. Coomaraswamy, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict<sup>5</sup>. It emphasizes the need to fight the impunity for crimes against children in armed conflict.



**Resolution 1888 (2009)**

Adopted by the Security Council at its 6195th meeting, on 30 September 2009

*The Security Council,*  
*Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1612 (2005), 1674 (2006), 1820 (2008) and 1882 (2009) and all relevant statements of its President,*  
*Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 16 July 2009 (S/2009/362), but remaining deeply concerned over the lack of progress on the issue of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict in particular against women and children, notably against girls, and noting as documented in the Secretary-General's report that sexual violence occurs in armed conflicts throughout the world,*  
*Reiterating deep concern that, despite its repeated condemnation of violence against women and children including all forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and despite its calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic or widespread,*  
*Recalling the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,*  
*Reaffirming the obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and urging states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them,*

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, another Resolution was added to the list: Security Council Resolution 1888<sup>6</sup>. It builds on 1325 and 1820 and calls on the Secretary-General “*to rapidly deploy a team of experts to situations of particular concern in terms of sexual violence, to work with United Nations personnel on the ground and national Governments on strengthening the rule of law*”. It calls for a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, to ensure UN leadership and coordination to respond to sexual violence. It also stresses the need for women’s protection advisers among gender advisers and human rights protection units to enhance the effectiveness of measures for the protection

of women and children. Other provisions of “1888” include the strengthening of monitoring and reporting on sexual violence, the retraining of peacekeepers, national forces and police, and calls to boost the participation of women in peacebuilding and other post-conflict processes<sup>7</sup>.

This Resolution emphasizes the need to address conflict-related sexual violence as an important peace and security issue. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon noted: “*Parties to armed conflict continue to use sexual violence with efficient brutality. The perpetrators generally operate with impunity.*” He pledges to continue to ensure effective follow-up by the United Nations system.

It was only six days later when another number emerged: the Security Council adopted UN SC Resolution 1889 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2009<sup>8</sup>. This Resolution builds on 1325 and calls for relevant actors to “*identify ways to address remaining and new challenges in implementing resolution 1325*”. It focuses on the implementation of 1325 particularly in post conflict period and

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1882 can be downloaded from: <http://www.un.org/children/conflict/documents/SC-RESOLUTION1882-2009.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Source: [http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2009/090804\\_1882.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2009/090804_1882.doc.htm)

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 can be downloaded from: [http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_resolutions09.htm](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions09.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Source; <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sc9753.doc.htm>

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889 can be downloaded from: [http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_resolutions09.htm](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions09.htm)

urges relevant actors to “ensure that women’s empowerment is taken into account during post-conflict needs assessments and planning, and factored into subsequent funding disbursements and programme activities, including through developing transparent analysis and tracking of funds allocated for addressing women’s needs in the post-conflict phase”.

The implementation of these Resolutions will partially depend on the formulation of plans of action. To date, 15 countries have drawn up National Actions Plans for the implementation of 1325<sup>9</sup>. Nonetheless, many civil society organisations, including many women’s groups, have noted that these National Actions Plans are often lacking clear monitoring and evaluation systems, which complicates the actual implementation of the Action Plans and thus the overall implementation of 1325. Resolution 1889 requests the Secretary-General to submit, within 6 months, to the Security Council “a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000), which could serve as a common basis for reporting by relevant United Nations entities, other international and regional organizations, and Member States, on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2010 and beyond.” The Resolution also commits the Secretary General to submit a review report on the progress of the implementation of 1325 and a report on addressing women’s participation and inclusion in peacebuilding and planning in the aftermath of conflict.

We welcome these Resolutions and the political will shown towards including women and a gender perspective in peace negotiations in conflict and post conflict situations. These Resolutions also affirm a commitment to address conflict-related sexual violence as an important peace and security issue. It should be emphasized however that showing a political commitment is only valuable for women and men on the ground if this political commitment is translated into true political action. Translating political will into action will require specific, timely and realistic planning; an investment in monitoring and evaluation; and a firm allocation of budget and human resources; combined with gender awareness, up-to-date knowledge and firm commitment from people on the various decision making levels. It is a responsibility that involves many actors, and a responsibility that requires serious commitment and serious investment, in order to transform promising words into a reality of peace to be enjoyed by all.

## News



### The United Nations General Assembly has finally mandated the establishment of a new gender equality entity

Previously, despite the positive role that the various entities within the UN have played, the organisation has not realised its full potential to positively impact the women of the world. Its work has been fragmented by being distributed among four bodies: The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Institute for Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, all of them being poorly funded and having a relatively low status within the UN.

On September 14, 2009 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution for the establishment of a new gender equality entity which will be headed by an Under-Secretary General directly reporting to the Secretary General. This is good news for women’s rights.

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<sup>9</sup> These 15 countries include: Austria, Belgium (French version), Belgium (English version), Chile, Ivory Coast (French), Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, Norway, Portugal (Portuguese), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom

Prof. Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) which belongs to a coalition of organisations campaigning for reform in the UN, says that the seeds of the three year old Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign emerged in New York during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where women demanded that the issue of a new gender equality body be added to the ongoing UN reform agenda.

Bunch says: "We had hoped for a more detailed resolution that more explicitly asked the Secretary General of the UN to appoint an Under Secretary General immediately to begin work on the transitional process, and who would resolve outstanding political questions like how the new body would be funded and governed. But by consolidating the existing UN women's units into one organization and putting it at a higher level, there is hope that the work will be stronger, utilise resources more effectively, and attract considerably more resources for this work."<sup>10</sup>

To read more about GEAR, please visit:

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/policy/unadvocacy/gea.html>

### **One Million Signatures Campaign in Iran wins Anna Politkovskaya Award 2009**



In honor of Anna Politkovskaya, the campaigning Russian journalist and outspoken government critic, who was killed in 2006, Reach all Women in War (RAW) gives the Anna Politkovskaya Award each year to a woman human rights defender from a conflict zone in the world who stands up for the victims of this conflict, often at great personal risk. The winner of this year's award is The *One Million Signatures Campaign for Equality* from Iran. This campaign aims to collect one million signatures of Iranian nationals to a petition demanding an end to legal discrimination against women in Iran. Leila Alikarami, a lawyer and human rights activist, accepted the award on behalf of the Campaign.

To read more about the campaign, please visit:

<http://www.we-change.org/spip.php?article19>

To read more about the Anna Politkovskaya Award, please visit:

<http://www.rawinwar.org/content/category/7/17/197/>

### **National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security**

Portugal is the most recent country to launch a national action plan (NAP) on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The plan focuses on five strategic objectives: 1) to increase representation and participation of women in peace and security operations, and in decision-making processes at the national and international levels; 2) to train and educate individuals involved in peace operations on gender equality, and specifically on Resolutions 1325 and 1820; 3) to promote and protect the rights of women and girls in conflict zones; 4) to broaden public and decision-making bodies' understanding on women, peace and security; and 5) to promote the participation of civil society in the implementation of Resolution 1325.

On September 7 and 8, 2009, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and International Alert jointly organized a conference with European civil society organizations on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Europe. The objective of this

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<sup>10</sup> Source: <http://www.awid.org/eng/content/view/full/52283>

## Civil Society Recommendations on the Implementation of UN SCR 1325 in Europe

On 7th-8th September 2009 under the Initiative for Peacebuilding (IP), the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and International Alert jointly organised a civil society conference on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Europe. The conference brought together representatives of civil society organisations from 18 countries across Europe - from Norway to Cyprus, and from Northern Ireland to Latvia - to share good practices and experiences of how they have advocated for SCR 1325 at the national level and, in some cases, played a role in the development, implementation and monitoring of national action plans. The following list of recommendations is in two parts, with the first part

conference was to discuss experiences and share best practices on UNSCR 1325 and national action plans (NAPs). Recommendations were drafted during this civil society conference, and have also benefited from wider consultation with other civil society networks in Europe and beyond. On October 2, EU Member States gathered in Brussels to discuss progress in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820. EPLO and member organizations International Alert and Kvinna till Kvinna attended this event and presented the civil society recommendations developed during the September CSO conference.

To read the Portuguese National Action Plan, please visit:

[http://www.ifor.org/WPP/Plano\\_Nacional\\_Accao\\_1325.pdf](http://www.ifor.org/WPP/Plano_Nacional_Accao_1325.pdf)

For more information on other countries' action plans, please visit our website:

<http://www.ifor.org/WPP/stories.htm>

For more information on the recommendations on National Action plans, please visit:

<http://www.eplo.org/documents/Recommendations1325.pdf>

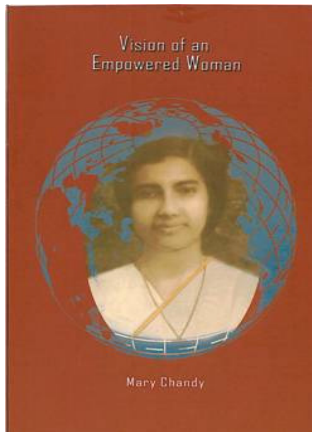
The graphic features the text "Take Action" in a large, white, sans-serif font at the top left. Below it, in a smaller white font, is the tagline "There's a lot we can do to stop the use of rape as a weapon of war." The background is dark with a red horizontal bar. Below the text are four panels, each showing a person with their arms crossed in an 'X' shape. The panels are labeled with yellow text: "Spread the crossed-arm 'X' gesture - upload your image", "Mobilize the Media", "Host an Event", and "Send a letter to your elected official".

### UN Action Get Cross Campaign against sexual violence in conflict

UN Action's global campaign, Get Angry, Get Involved, GET CROSS! calls upon the general public to show solidarity with survivors of sexual violence by uploading their crossed-arm image to [www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org). These photos will create a global photo-montage evidencing outrage against sexual violence in conflict, in order to mobilize public support and political will for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1820. The campaign contributes to the Secretary-General's Campaign, UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, 2008-2015.

For more information on the campaign, please visit: <http://stoprapenow.org/takeAction.html>

## Resources

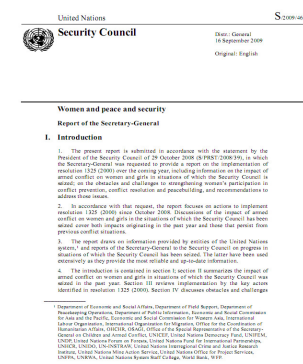


### Book on Mary Chandy, a pioneer, a true leader and Vice President of Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) India

Many women, who have spent their whole life in peacebuilding, go unseen and unknown. This book acknowledges the leadership Mary Chandy gave to the cause of disadvantaged women and children and to FOR India. The basis of her nonviolent activism was her spiritual faith, and her story is showing that it is possible to dream about a future wherein women can lead a life of sharing and participating in all issues which confront society.

To download the book, please visit:

[http://www.ifor.org/WPP/MaryChandi\\_Book.PDF](http://www.ifor.org/WPP/MaryChandi_Book.PDF)



### Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, dated 16 September 2009

This report is submitted in accordance with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 October 2008 (S/PRST/2008/39), in which the Secretary-General was requested to provide a report on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) over the coming year, including information on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls in situations of which the Security Council is seized; on the obstacles and challenges to strengthening women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and recommendations to address those issues.

To read the report, please visit: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep09.htm>



### Beyond Victimhood: Protection and Participation of Women in the Pursuit of Peace - Donald Steinberg

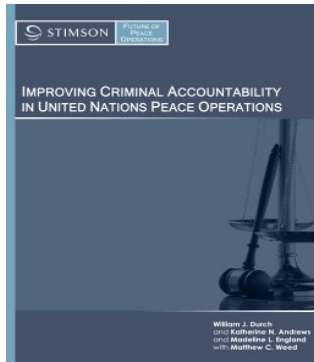
Testimony by Donald Steinberg, Deputy President, International Crisis Group, to the US. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington D.C, 1 October 2009.

*"It took me only a few weeks after my arrival in Luanda, Angola, to realize that a peace agreement that calls itself "gender-neutral" is, by definition, discriminatory against women."*

In his strong speech to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on October 1 2009, Donald Steinberg analyses, what can go wrong in peace negotiations when women are not included. The exclusion of the women silenced their voices and meant that issues such as sexual violence, human trafficking, abuses by government and rebel security forces, reproductive health care, and girls' education were generally ignored. He calls for collective action and discusses what the United States could do in collaboration with the United Nations in order to consolidate peace and stability.

To download the speech from Donald Steinberg, please visit:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6334>



## Ending Impunity: New Tools for Criminal Accountability in UN Peace Operations

While military personnel are covered by national military codes of justice and memoranda of understanding between the UN and troop contributing countries, non-military personnel (UN civilian staff and police) accused of serious crimes in the field may face a penalty no more severe than repatriation. Such lack of criminal accountability poses a problem—of equity, morality, hypocrisy, injustice, or just bad example—but disagreement remains regarding whose responsibility it should be to remedy the situation. This report discusses tools for improving accountability in UN Peace Operations.

To read the report, please visit: <http://www.stimson.org/pub.cfm?ID=869>

*(Cross sent by: Human Security Report Project)*

## The Tragedy of Our 'Disappeared' Veterans

By Penny Coleman

According to Jonathan Shay, a Veterans Administration psychiatrist and author of 'Achilles in Vietnam', hyper vigilance in soldiers and veterans is expressed as the persistent mobilization of both body and mind to protect against lethal danger -- they act as though they were still in combat, even when the danger is no longer present. Often alcohol or drugs are used by the veterans to gain some temporary relief from intolerable memories and from the emotional and physical exhaustion of maintaining a constant state of vigilance.

This article discusses the mental health problems that many veterans face after having served in the military. It addresses the lack of proper support that these people and their families deal with and the connection between the violent behaviors of some returning service members and their combat experience.

To read the article, please visit:

[http://www.alternet.org/world/140828/the\\_tragedy\\_of\\_our\\_%27disappeared%27\\_veterans/?page=2](http://www.alternet.org/world/140828/the_tragedy_of_our_%27disappeared%27_veterans/?page=2)

*(Cross sent by: AlterNet)*

## Calender



### 11 – 13 November 2009: Putting policy into practice: Monitoring the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820

The Norwegian NGO FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are together organizing a conference from 11 to 13 November 2009 on effective monitoring of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.fokuskvinner.no/Konferanser>

### **25 November – 10 December 2009: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/about.html>

### **1 December 2009: Prisoners for Peace Day**

Since its foundation in 1921, the work for prisoners for peace – imprisoned conscientious objectors and peace activists – has been a central part of the work of War Resisters' International. 1 December has been Prisoners for Peace Day since 1957. Take some time – not only on 1 December, Prisoners for Peace Day – to write letters to prisoners.

For more information, please see; <http://wri-irg.org/node/4718>

### **22 – 25 January 2010: International Conference War Resisters' International**

This participatory conference investigates the links between local non-violent livelihood struggles and global militarism, including war profiteering. This conference will bring together campaigners from all over the world to analyse the role of states and multinational corporations in depriving local communities of their sources of livelihood, and learning from the experience of non-violent resistance at various levels – from the community to the global – and at various phases, from preventing displacement to planning for return.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.wri-irg.org/>

### **1 – 12 March 2010: Commission on the Status of Women: 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)**

In March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Emphasis will be placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

### **30 June – 2 July 2010: Beyond Citizenship: Feminism and the transformation of belonging**

Can the concept of citizenship encompass the transformations that feminist politics seek? What are the restrictions and exclusions of contemporary forms and practices of citizenship? How does the concept of citizenship deal with power, inequality, and difference? What are the problems with framing our desires and visions for the future in terms of citizenship in a globalizing world of migration, mobility, armed conflict, economic crisis and climate change?

Individual paper proposals (max. 200 words) or proposals for panels of three or four related papers (max. 300 words) should be submitted by the 1st of December 2009 to: [abstracts.beyondcitizenship@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:abstracts.beyondcitizenship@bbk.ac.uk)

### **30 November – 11 December 2009: Training of Trainers Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace**

The WPP is convinced that in order to change cultures of war and violence, women peace activists need to work together with male allies. Therefore the WPP is in the process of

organizing the first one-of-its-kind Training of Trainers, entitled "Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace". This Training of Trainers will take place late 2009.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP>



**WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM**  
International Fellowship Of Reconciliation

*Cross the Lines is produced three times a year in Dutch, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.*

*A contribution of Euro 10, GBP 5 or USD 10 will help us spread the news about women's initiatives for peace among groups and individuals unable to pay. Cheques may be made out to 'IFOR/Women Peacemakers Program' in British pounds (drawn on a British bank) or in US dollars (drawn on a US bank). Payment may also be made by VISA or MasterCard, or by transfer of Euros to IFOR's Postbank account 2704182 (in the name of Stichting IFOR).*

*The Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) is an initiative of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR). Since 1919 IFOR has pioneered spiritually-based active nonviolence. For more information about WPP, contact editor José de Vries ([j.devries@ifor.org](mailto:j.devries@ifor.org)).*

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*All photos courtesy of WPP archive*