

Cross the Lines # 41

*Grenzen Overschrijden
Franchir les lignes*

September - December 2010



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Interfaith and faith-based peacebuilding: The need for a gender perspective

Report on the IFOR/WPP Consultation held 13-16 September 2010, Nicosia, Cyprus

By Merle Gosewinkel

The role religion plays in conflict is increasingly acknowledged; as a cause of conflict, but also more and more as a way to overcome conflict, resulting in a rising number of interfaith and faith-based peace initiatives. While most public attention underlines the oppressive aspects that exist in religion towards women; spirituality

and faith can also be a driving force for women activists to become actively involved in peacebuilding.

With the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 around the corner, the IFOR Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) felt it necessary to further investigate the triangle of religion, peacebuilding and gender, as to analyze where the three intersect, and to emphasize the importance of a gender perspective in current interfaith and faith-based peace initiatives.

To this end, IFOR/WPP organized a three-day consultation with 35 women activists from 21 different countries representing various religions and faiths. The group consisted of an inspiring mix of progressive female theologians, women rights and peace activists.

The consultation started with the participants mapping out the positive aspects of religion in relation to gender, as well as the obstacles women face within their respective religions and faith traditions. When sharing experiences during group discussions - positive and negative – the participants were amazed to see



the many similarities between the different faiths in relation to gender norms.

One recurring topic in the discussion was the existing hierarchical and sexist structures in most religions which in turn institutionalizes the exclusion of women from decision-making positions within the religious communities. The women also emphasized how these structures result in a male-dominated interpretation of religious texts and how oppressive traditions and religion often merge in their communities. Disconnecting religion from oppressive cultural practices by means of reinterpreting the religious texts from a women's perspective was discussed as one way to challenge these practices. In relation to this, education and capacity building were named as additional strategies to empower women within their respective religions – many participants mentioned that women should start reading religious texts instead of just relying on what male religious leaders told them.

say: There are so many other laws which are not respected, why should we respect 1325?" Many women shared how they have to come up with creative and innovative ways to bring their cause forward by using a "backdoor strategy", such as finding influential allies in the current system, which support them and their demands. A participant from Liberia shared how during the civil war, it was women of faith – Christians and Muslims – who decided to come together and oppose the war through nonviolent action. Time and time again the participants - next to being very critical towards women's exclusion in religion and the threat of religious fundamentalism - also stressed that it is often one's belief that carries one through the darkest hours. For many of the women, their spirituality made them stand up and challenge injustice in their society. Although the participants stressed that there is a need for women rights activists to be critical towards religion, they underlined that religion in itself was not the problem. Rather the *interpretation*

Women are very present in peacebuilding initiatives at grassroots level, yet their number rapidly decreases when looking at higher decision making levels, due to structures which are exclusive towards women

When talking about the intersection between gender, religion and peacebuilding, it became apparent that women are very present in (faith-based) peacebuilding initiatives at grassroots level, yet their number rapidly decreases when looking at higher decision making levels, due to structures which are exclusive towards women. Having a tool such as UNSCR 1325 in place unfortunately does not mean that the situation for women on the ground becomes automatically easier, as many of the participants confirmed. This is not only due to the fact that UNSCR 1325 is little known on the ground, but also do to a sometimes, dismissive attitude towards the Resolution. As one participant expressed: "*People on the ground*

and *abuse* of religion to victimize and keep women subordinated needs to be questioned and addressed.

The final day of the consultation was dedicated to coming up with strategies in order to put the discussions of the previous days into practical suggestions and actions. Education and capacity building was named, as well as involving progressive men as allies in the work for more gender-sensitive faith-based peacebuilding.

A recurring point in these discussions was the support women can give to each other, through finding their own space to network, share

information and experiences and organize themselves. In that sense the consultation itself was seen by the group as a start of such a support and activist network. The bonding between the women was remarkable considering the short amount of time, and many of them voiced how they felt empowered by sharing their stories with all these women from different countries and cultural and religious backgrounds. Or as one woman put it at the very end of the consultation: "I feel like I travelled the world."

The outcomes of all these fruitful discussions, together with the strategies for a way forward will be compiled into a report by the WPP and will be published later this year.



1325 10+: A momentum to reflect

By José de Vries

UNSCR 1325 – ten years existence

On the International Women's Day, in March 2000, the Security Council made a Presidential Statement recognizing the link between sustainable peace and gender equality.¹ Seven months later on October 31st, after intensive lobbying initiatives from women's organizations, the UN Security Council affirmed the linkage between women, peace and security through the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325). This resolution recognizes the diverse roles women play in conflict and peacebuilding processes. Women and children are most affected by armed conflict, yet they are also active agents of change who need to be included in peacebuilding processes on all levels.

United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325² calls for:

- Participation of women at all levels of peace processes and security policy, at all levels of decision making;
- Protection of women and children in war and (post) conflict situations;
- Implementation of a gender perspective in peace negotiations, activities and security policy

This resolution was the first ever attempt by the member states to elevate a gender perspective in peacebuilding and conflict prevention³.

¹

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/history.html>

² For more information about UNSCR 1325, please visit for instance:

http://www.peacewomen.org/themes_theme.php?id=15&subtheme=true

³

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/national_level_impl.html

In 2008, the direct relationship between widespread and/or systematic use of sexual violence as an instrument of armed conflict and the maintenance of international peace and security was recognized in Resolution 1820. Resolution 1888 and 1889 were adopted in 2009 consequently, reaffirming the importance of 1325.

October 2010 marks ten years existence of 1325, leading to questions such as; what has been achieved so far? Has the vision of 1325 led to tangible effects for women on the ground?

To fulfill the vision of Resolution 1325 the former UN secretary general Kofi Anan urged the member states to develop national action plans (NAP) as to become a guideline for each country to be able to both evaluate and account for their implementation of 1325⁴. Currently, 23 countries have developed a NAP, the majority of the NAP's have been developed thus far in Europe⁵. In spite of this, there is still a gap between policy and practice, including in the countries that developed a NAP. Women are still not sufficiently included in peacebuilding processes, their protection needs are not always fully considered and a true gender perspective is often not considered enough in peace negotiations, reflecting a lack of true political will for the implementation of 1325.

⁴ UN-INSTRAW has developed a map tool that provides information on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the publicly launched National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325. Additionally, the map provides key facts, reading suggestions, and contact information for people working on UNSCR 1325 in each country. To view the tools developed by UN-INSTRAW please visit: <http://www.un-instraw.org/peace-and-security/knowledge-management/uns-cr-1325-national-action-plan-map.html>

⁵ Currently, the following countries have developed a National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325; Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nepal, The Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Source: PeaceWomen: <http://www.peacewomen.org/pages/about-1325/national-action-plans-naps>

In many of the NAP's, if not all, the notion of security is narrowly defined, being one of physical safety and legal security of women and men. This excludes wider definitions, such as involving socio-economic aspects, including the safeguarding of women from any form of structural violence such as poverty. For instance, the Dutch NAP states that security is a broader concept, requiring co-operation with a broad range of actors and across various sectors, yet the plan itself does not aim to address this (p.12⁶). This is partly due to the fact that traditional notions on security still dominate, and the fact that this traditional notion alone covers a wide range of issues (diplomacy, peace missions, reconstruction efforts, etc), making it challenging enough to ensure 1325 is taken on board in every dimension. However, the current "compartmentalized" approach carries the risk that the issue of gender becomes a matter of "addition" to already existing approaches of peace intervention, instead of truly transforming these approaches from a gender perspective – and hence having more impact⁷.

Recommendations

During the decade, the importance of 1325 has been increasingly recognized, which is an important step forward. Civil society representatives, academics, government representatives, UN representatives and many other actors have devoted time and energy to develop and share recommendations on how to improve the implementation of 1325⁸. It is

⁶ Dutch National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 – Taking a stand for women, peace and security. Downloadable from: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/nap1325-en.pdf>

⁷ Source: Militarism, Security and Peace: 1325 – Challenges and Opportunities in National Action Plans, Peace Palace, The Hague (2008) by Isabelle Geuskens, downloadable via: <http://www.ifor.org/WPP/stories.htm>

⁸ For some of these excellent recommendations, please have a look at e.g: <http://www.eplo.org/documents/Recommendations1325edJan.pdf> ; <http://www.usip.org/files/1325.pdf> http://www.huntalternatives.org/download/1471_unscr_1325_recommendations.pdf http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/indicators http://www.realizingrights.org/pdf/24Apr09_Meeting_Report_Increasing_Momentum_for_UNSCR%201325_National

agreed that true implementation requires concrete, responsive, time-bound programmes, availability of human and financial resources and evaluation mechanisms, with proper, and well-defined indicators⁹.

Yet, realizing this is not enough. A lack of strong political will for the implementation of 1325 in its full spirit is a major problem in terms of implementation. Also, most efforts in terms of implementation have focused on the protection of women, and less on promoting and supporting women's leadership in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes, as reflected in existing UN programs under 1325, as well as the mandate of Special Representative Wallström and the UN Trust Fund. Commitment announcements, such as Sweden's resolve to support Wallström's office, were more numerous on combating violence than on promoting women-led peace¹⁰. The WPP considers it crucial that more attention is given to the promotion of women's leadership, as well as support of women's peace initiatives.

The WPP considers the lack of accountability a serious challenge in terms of addressing political will and the implementation of this resolution. As suggested by the Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security¹¹, the UN Secretary-General and

especially the UN Security Council should hold individual countries and non-state actors accountable for their actions in preventing and responding to sexual violence, including refraining from their own abuses, prosecuting individuals engaged in such practices, and taking affirmative action for protection. There should be a watch-list of countries and non-state actors failing to meet minimum standards in this regard as a mechanism to "name-and-shame"¹².

Hope

The results of the past decade have shown that there is still a long way to go. Yet, there is some hope. The United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously on July 2nd, 2010 to create a new entity, entitled UN Women, to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide, which will be led by Michelle Bachelet. At least US\$500 million — double the current combined budget of DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI, and UNIFEM — has been recognized by Member States as the minimum investment needed for UN Women¹³. Also, the UNFPA's 2010 State of World Population report focuses on the effect of conflict and protracted humanitarian emergencies on women and girls, and shows why the development community should be talking, and talking seriously, about conflict.

[Action_Plans.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Needs_Assessment_Africa.pdf)
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Needs_Assessment_Africa.pdf
<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/05/14/un-security-council-resolution-1325-recognizing-women-s-vital-roles-achieving-peace->
<http://www.iansa.org/women/bulletin8/1325-future.htm>
<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate-uk/2009/06/19/un-resolution-on-women-peace-and-security-anniversary-worth-celebrating/>

http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=896

¹⁰ Source: "The politics of peace: SCR 1325 at 10" by Lyric Thompson, downloadable from:
<http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/lyric-thompson/politics-of-peace-taking-stock-of-progress-at-10th-anniversary-of-1325>

¹¹ In March 2010, the United Nations established the Civil Society Advisory Group on Women, Peace, and Security

(CSAG) to advise the Secretary-General and the High-Level Steering Committee of UN agencies and entities on ensuring a coherent and coordinated approach to protecting women's rights during armed conflict and ensuring their full participation in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction processes. The CSAG has been preparing a series of working papers with concrete recommendations for actions on the topics: (a) women's participation and leadership in the UN and peace processes; (b) civil society involvement in peacebuilding; (c) preventing and responding to sexual violence against women displaced by conflict; (d) advancing National Action Plans, regional action plans, and twinning on women, peace and security; and (e) resourcing women, peace and security. Source:
http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=673

¹² Source: Working Paper on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence against Women Displaced by Conflict (NGO) by Donald Steinberg. Downloadable from:
http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=673

¹³ Source: <http://www.unwomen.org/faq/#budget>

While slow progress is taking place, at least there is increased attention for women in peace and conflict.

The ten years existence of 1325 should be used as a momentum to pause, reflect and determine a constructive way forward. The lessons from the past decade have been documented – and we don't need more recommendations, documents or resolutions. We need true political will for the implementation of 1325, and its sister resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889. This should be measured by the results on the ground, by actual numbers of less women being raped, more women's peace initiatives receiving support, less women suffering from discrimination, more women being meaningfully included in peacebuilding processes and women's political leadership being equally valued as men's.

This is a pre-requisite for social and gender justice, which includes and speaks to both women and men. Only then can we create a peaceful society which is built upon justice, freedom and peace for all.



Resolution 1325 (2000)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on
31 October 2000**

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and *recalling also* the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

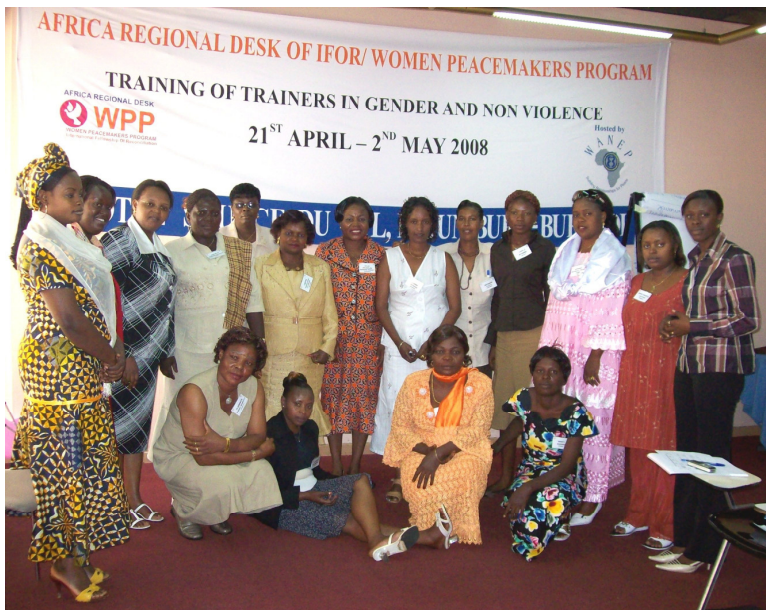
Recalling also the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,



WPP Regional Strategy News

By Dorothy Attema

Since 2006 the WPP has been working on decentralization of its work, aiming to empower women peace activists, ensure sustainability of its work and build a regional network of activists working for women's empowerment in peacebuilding. To achieve this goal, regional trainings and capacity building programs on gender sensitive active nonviolence education and training have been organized, as well as supporting networking South to South and South to North with possibility of sharing of best practices.



To increase effectiveness, ownership and sustainability, WPP has been working on a regional strategy to decentralize its work since 2006. Throughout this process the WPP had to be flexible and adaptable in order to achieve its goals in capacity building and devolution of power.

In Africa, since its establishment in 2007, the WPP Regional Desk has managed to build networks and train women from 33 African countries¹⁴. Africa is a continent filled with conflicts and with patriarchal structures on all levels of society. Women are either side-lined or not involved in peacebuilding and transitional justice decision making processes that seek to find workable solutions to conflict or crisis. Even where quotas for women's representation exist in theory, in practice they are rarely implemented. Also, when women do have a chance to participate, some of them are not able to do so effectively as they lack sufficient information on key tools and mechanisms, be it national, regional or international. Women often lack opportunities to share experiences and learn about strategies and best practices that can be used

as a basis to advance their arguments. Making use of these strategies would lead to a situation where the issues that affect women and girls are well captured in key policy decisions and legislation.

In the upcoming years WPP-Africa will have a key role to play in empowering women and making gender-sensitive active nonviolence an accessible alternative peacebuilding tool as women of Africa rise up to redefine what peace means for them.

In its next phase from 2011-2015, WPP will focus more on Asia, Middle East, Caucasus and the Balkans, Pacific and Latin America in its regional strategy. In 2011, WPP will endeavour to work closely with the existing

¹⁴ The countries include: Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Eritrea, D R Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Mauritania, Nigeria, Mali, South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Madagascar, Angola, Namibia, Central African Republic, Seychelles

WPP Asia network members in defining the way forward in order to promote effectiveness, ownership and sustainability in building a gender sensitive active nonviolence regional movement in Asia. We hope that through the use of participatory approaches we will be able to build relationships that will foster mutual partnerships. We hope that in this process the WPP network will become the driving force behind development projects in Asia in all stages, from planning to implementation and evaluation. In all the other regions WPP will continue to expand its partnership base through collaborations and joint activities and actions with key stakeholders.

More information on the WPP regionalization process and activities will be published in the upcoming Cross the Lines.

WPP ToT cycle *Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace*

Gender lies at the root of war and peace and it is increasingly being recognized that issues of masculinities need to be addressed in the field of peacebuilding and active nonviolence. WPP is convinced that in order to transform cultures of war and violence, women peace activists need to work together with male allies on these issues. In 2009, the WPP initiated a pilot Training of Trainers entitled “Overcoming Violence - Exploring Masculinities, Violence and Peace” for 19 pioneering activist men, from 17 different countries. Upon return home from the first training block, the trainees developed and implemented a follow-up activity, with the support of a female peace activist. The second training block took place in July 2010 in Manila with the same trainees, reviewing the follow up activities as well as deepening the issues worked on in the previous ToT.

The report of the first ToT is now online, the report of the second part will be published later this year.

To read the report of the first training block, please visit:

http://www.ifor.org/WPP/education_skills.htm

For a direct link to the report, please use:

http://www.ifor.org/WPP/Report_ToT2009_web.pdf

Canada adopts National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

On October 5, 2010 Canada launched its National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related UNSC resolutions. This Action Plan is intended to guide the Government of Canada in the implementation of these resolutions on Women, Peace and Security which recognize and address the experiences of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to improve Canada’s capacity to safeguard and support affected populations during all phases of peace operations (peacekeeping, peacebuilding, peacemaking, peace enforcement, conflict prevention, mediation, and stabilization and reconstruction), and in fragile states and conflict-affected situations.¹⁵

To read the Canadian NAP, please visit:

http://www.international.gc.ca/START-GTSR/women_canada_action_plan_action_femme.aspx?lang=eng

Colombia: the right to conscientious objection to military service

Eleven months after the announcement of the judgement of the Constitutional Court from 14 October 2009 that there is a right to conscientious objection to military service

¹⁵ http://www.international.gc.ca/START-GTSR/women_canada_action_plan_action_femme.aspx

under the Colombian constitution, the judgement itself 111 pages strong, has finally been published.

In its conclusion, the court refers to the development of its own jurisprudence on conscientious objection in others areas, such as health and work, and also refers explicitly, to the development of international standards on the right to conscientious objection.

To read more, please visit: <http://wri-irg.org/node/11172>



Resources

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence: Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women: Take Action Kit



This year's theme of the 16 Days will begin to address structures in place that permit gender-based violence to exist and persist, starting with the intersections of militarism and violence against women. During the 2010 campaign, we will be exploring various definitions of militarism, the range of violations this ideology promotes, and the impact it has on our activism and on our ability to live in genuine security. The emphasis of this year's campaign will be on collecting information from you about your individual and collective experiences of militarism, which will help to inform and develop future 16 Days Campaigns.

Please visit the website of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and download the 16 Days Take Action Kit and additional information:

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/kit10/kit.html>

50.50

inclusive democracy



Politics of Peace – UN Security Council Resolution

1325 at ten years

As the 10th anniversary of SCR 1325 approaches and the debates heat up, it is with dual and conflicting senses of deep frustration with the past and tentative optimism for the future. Lyric Thompson, from Women for Women International, reports.

To read the article, please visit:

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/lyric-thompson/politics-of-peace-taking-stock-of-progress-at-10th-anniversary-of-1325>



More Needs to Be Done to Ensure Gender Equality in Peacebuilding, UN Secretary-General Warns + Report

“Now is the time for systematic, focused and sustained action, backed by resources and commitments on the part of all stakeholders – national and international, public and private, women and men,” Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon writes, laying out a seven-point action plan aimed at changing practices among all actors and improving outcomes on the ground. There are ample grounds for concluding that women’s underrepresentation in peace talks has contributed to the relative neglect of women’s priorities in the texts of peace agreements. A study of 585 peace agreements concluded between 1990 and 2010 found that just 16 per cent contained references to women. Read more:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36381&Cr=gender+equality&Cr1>

They came with two guns: the consequences of sexual violence for the mental health of women in armed conflicts



Humanitarian debate: Law, policy, action
Urban violence

A new report has been issued in the International Review of the Red Cross that details the consequences of sexual violence for women in armed conflicts, both on an individual and societal level, with a focus on resultant mental health issues. The report covers the various consequences often faced by women who are victims of sexual assault, including rejection by her family, impaired parenting skills, exclusion from schools and jobs, being viewed as unfit for marriage, forced marriages, and violence or murder. More info, please visit:

http://stopvaw.org/new_report_on_the_consequences_of_sexual_violence_for_women_in_armed_conflicts.html



Latin America and the Caribbean: Sexual Violence Report

Though LAC was the first region to pass the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against

Women (CEDAW) and it has programs to address sexual violence, sexual violence is still a serious problem as the programs continue to fail either because they are never implemented or they are not sustainable.

Read more:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3341&Itemid=2459

10-pt position paper on 10 years SCR 1325 in Europe



This paper outlines civil society’s views on the current state of

implementation of SCR 1325 and related women, peace and security commitments in Europe –

To download the paper, please visit:

http://www.eplo.org/documents/10_points_on_10_years_1325.pdf



Cartooning for peace

Featuring some 35 cartoonists from more than 20 countries, the exhibition is the idea of The Parents’ Circle, a group of bereaved Palestinian and Israeli families who wanted to

highlight the futility of violence in the region. Artists who have contributed work to *Cartooning in Conflict* include Pulitzer Prize winners Pat Oliphant and Jim Morin; Polish-born satirist Andrzej Krauze; Britain’s David Bromley, and Japan’s Norio Yamanoi.

The exhibition can be borrowed from Community Dialogue as a means of facilitating discussion. Contact; Community Dialogue, LINC Resource Centre, 218 York Street, Belfast BT15 1GY, ph 028 90351450 and web www.communitydialogue.org



Calendar

29 October 2010: WPP Workshop during 1325 10 + commemorations in New York: Engaging Men for UNSCR 1325

In this workshop, taking place in New York in the UN Church Center, the WPP will be sharing some of their experiences and lessons learned from WPP's Pilot around engaging men for gender sensitive peacebuilding through nonviolence. For more info, keep track of our website: www.ifor.org/WPP

25 – 29 October 2010: Peace Fair Commemorating the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

This participatory multimedia Peace Fair brings together organizations from around the world dedicated to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

For more information, please visit: http://www.peacewomen.org/news_article.php?id=171&type=event or <http://womenpromotepeace.wordpress.com/>

25 November – 10 December 2010: 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. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

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

22 February - 4 March 2011: 55th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women:

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work (ECOSOC resolution 2009/15), the 2011 priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women is "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Deadlines for submission of written statements are the following:

- Individual organizations: 11 November 2010
- Joint written statements: 18 November 2010
- NGOs on the roster or joint statements that include NGOs on the roster: 4 November 2010

For more information, please visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sessions.htm>

3 - 5 March 2011: Justice? – Whose Justice? Punishment, Mediation or Reconciliation? 2nd Biennial War Crimes Conference

This conference is an initiative between SOLON, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and the Centre for Contemporary British History to explore themes surrounding judicial roles and responses to war crimes (broadly construed)– past, present and future – and also responses to such initiatives from

victims/victors, interested agencies and commentators, including the UN, NATO and various local, regional and international NGOs. Details, including the programme and the booking form will be available on the SOLON, IALS, and CCBH websites:

<http://www.perc.plymouth.ac.uk/solon/>;
<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/>; <http://icbh.ac.uk/> :

8 March 2011: International Women's Day

International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. Would you like to contribute to a special 'Global Arts Initiative' for the 2011 International Women's Day Centenary? Professional to amateur artists and authors welcome. For more information, please visit: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

19 - 21 July 2011: War Resisters International Council

The WRI Council meeting 2011 will take place during the time of the action camp at the camp itself in Luleå in the north of Sweden. At present, the dates penciled in for the Council are 19-21 July 2011. For more information, please visit: <http://www.wri-irg.org/node/11056>



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).

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