

Cross the Lines # 36

*Cruzar las fronteras
Franchir les lignes*



January – April 2009



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Incorporating a gender perspective in civilian-based peacekeeping



While awareness is growing that conflict and post-conflict situations have significant gendered implications that need to be addressed by any kind of intervention - local, national, or international; governmental or non-governmental - in practice systematic efforts to implement gender analysis and gender-sensitive policies are still exceptional. This is mainly related to lack of sufficient gender knowledge in organizations and institutions dealing with peace and security; absence of sufficient financial and human resources to implement a gender perspective; and gender not being made a priority in the work in itself.

In recent years IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program has been receiving signals from the field that civilian-based peace services are struggling to implement a gender perspective in their work. Based on this observation the WPP decided to conduct a one-year pilot research on how to incorporate a gender perspective in civilian-based peace work. This pilot project aims to contribute to growing gender awareness and sensitivity within the praxis of existing peace teams and other peacebuilding initiatives, in order for them to effectively promote and contribute to gender equality as a condition for a just, lasting peace.

PBI volunteer accompanying a client on a field trip in the Central Highlands of Papua (2007)



The process for implementing the pilot project started early 2006, when the WPP sent out a call for cooperation to seven civilian-based peace services. Responses were very positive, and resulted in a formal agreement between Peace Brigades International's

Indonesia Project (PBI-IP) and the WPP for the pilot. PBI-IP proved to be an ideal partner, for not only is PBI the oldest civilian-based peace organization in the world, it is also in the process of developing an organization-wide gender and diversity policy¹. With gender already being featured on the PBI agenda, the pilot would be able to build on the work already done. The research was conducted by *Maria Delgado*, a researcher, a human rights activist, and a former member of a peace team.

Civilian-based peacekeeping

In her book *Civilian Peacekeeping. Preventing Violence and Making Space for Democracy* (2006), Lisa Schirch refers to civilian peacekeeping as involving “unarmed individuals placing themselves in conflict situations in an intentional effort to reduce inter-group violence.” According to the author, “civilian peacekeeping, also called unarmed peacekeeping, peace teams, or third party non-violent intervention, performs many of the same tasks as military peacekeeping.”² While military peacekeeping usually includes activities such as maintaining ceasefires, limiting violence, assisting in the withdrawal of troops and demobilization of armed groups, accompanying humanitarian aid missions, protecting refugees and internally displaced people, civilian peacekeeping primarily aims to reduce levels of direct violence, so that civil society actors can safely carry out non-violent activism, defend human rights, or promote dialogue. Among the advantages of civilian peacekeeping in terms of preventing and deterring violence, Schirch notes that “civilian peacekeepers are inexpensive, have access to and legitimacy with grassroots groups, use non-violent forms of power to prevent violence, and often have a committed constituency of peace supporters around the world.”³

As civilian-based peacekeeping organization, Peace Brigades International (PBI) works for the protection of human rights and the promotion of non-violent transformation of violent conflict by sending out teams of international volunteers (so-called *peace teams*) to areas of repression and conflict. PBI teams accompany human rights defenders and organizations threatened by political violence, in order to create space for local activists to work for social justice and human rights. In 1999, upon the written request of various Indonesian and East Timorese human rights groups, PBI established a permanent presence in Indonesia with the PBI Indonesia Project (IP) where it focuses on offering protective services and providing participatory peace education.



Gender and the IP

The pilot research assessed how gender dynamics play out in the IP’s work, considering its institutional structures and policies, recruitment and training processes, and activities in the field. It looked at some of the challenges and dilemmas encountered in the field, and how these are addressed by the teams. To broaden the scope of the field research, additional information was gathered from other PBI field projects, as well as from other international civilian-based peacekeeping organizations.

The observations of the pilot research resulted in the formulation of a set of recommendations for peace teams. For instance, in the context of civilian-based peacekeeping, field teams are both living and working together, in a context often unfamiliar to them. Gender awareness and sensitivity of team members is important in a setting where interaction is shaped by everyone’s personal socialization, which differs considerably based on one’s cultural, educational and generational background. Gender therefore needs to be addressed from the start, and hence become firmly imbedded in the organization’s

¹ PBI established a *Gender and Diversity Working Group* in 2005, which is in charge of developing a *Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Strategy* for PBI.

² Schirch, 2006: 15.

³ Schirch, 2006: 17

recruitment processes, as this will impact on how gender is ultimately addressed in the field. A gender-sensitive recruitment policy goes beyond the number of men and women working for the organization; it also ensures equal opportunities for everyone, as well as a safe and comfortable working atmosphere.

A commitment to gender justice in peace teams reflects for example in local initiatives and programs that empower women and girls, in order for women and men to become equal partners in peacebuilding and reconciliation. A gender mainstreaming strategy⁴ thus includes gender-specific activities and affirmative action, whenever women or men are in a particularly disadvantageous position, as to overcome the direct and indirect effects of previous discrimination. Nonetheless, gender mainstreaming is not only about adding a 'woman's program' or a 'gender equality component' into an already existing activity, such as for example peace education, nor about the increase in the participation of women. It is also about ensuring that the specific experiences, knowledge, and interests of women and men bear on the peace team's agenda and practices⁵. This might even entail changing this agenda, revising the organization's goals, strategies, and actions in order for both women and men to be able to influence, participate in, and benefit from its work.

Though PBI has formulated a gender and diversity policy, it faces, as other civilian-based peace services do, challenges in implementing this policy. Implementation of this policy starts with a thorough gender analysis of all areas of activities and structures so that gender differences and disparities can be diagnosed (gender baseline). Once the baseline situation has been established, real progress in terms of further implementation depends on the allocation of adequate resources for mainstreaming, which includes both financial and human resources. One of the biggest challenges peace teams face in this regard is its



Field teams are both living and working together

volunteer-based structure, which poses a major challenge to the sustainability of the gender mainstreaming efforts. The high turnover of volunteers can lead to chronic institutional memory loss, in particular in relation to the transfer of expertise and lessons learned. In addition, the demanding work load in a complex setting can lead to gender mainstreaming being pushed aside when competing with other 'priority' areas for time, limited funding and staff allocation.

It is equally important for peace teams such as Peace Brigades International's Indonesia Project to formulate a clear vision and position in relation to respecting gender equality in light of a context where gender inequality is the norm; and offers guidelines - for example in the organization's code of conduct- on how it expects its female and male staff members and

⁴ In July 1997, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) defined the concept of gender mainstreaming as follows: "Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the *process* of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality."

⁵ For this reason, it is important that any gender mainstreaming also focuses on the concept of *masculinities*. As some feminist critics have observed, the impact of some measures to 'mainstream gender' in military peacekeeping missions – namely, to incorporate more female personnel as well as gender advisers and gender units, and to implement gender trainings - has been little because it is not linked to a discussion on militarism *an sich*, and in particular on militarized masculinities, or on masculinities in general.

volunteers to behave and respond in this regard. Female and male team members will encounter different experiences in the field, and hence have different needs. A gender-sensitive approach implies taking these needs into account. For example, any dismissive assumption that sexual harassment is part of the 'operational costs' of deploying white/foreign/Western women abroad should be avoided. One former IP volunteer stated in this regard:

"The teams in the field often work in an environment of gender discrimination, sexual violence and ethnic conflict, and as an international organization PBI should set positive examples. For the work in Papua it can be said that the majority of human rights workers are male while women are in a marginalized position and often are not part of relevant human rights discussions. Female PBI volunteers can be an example of women working for human rights. The role of male PBI volunteers is not less crucial, as they can set examples of men who respect women as equal counterparts meeting with local women at eyelevel, listening to them and treating them as subjects and not as objects as it is widely common in Papua. Such a male approach can be an important experience for both women and men in the local context and open the window for alternative gender interaction."

In countries experiencing violent conflict, or just coming out of a situation of war, it is crucial to raise awareness on key international instruments such as CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820, since women's rights are more than ever at a risk of being violated. Peace teams in this regard can play a role in informing and educating the human rights defenders and organizations they work with, and they can actively support and involve those women organizations that are working for women's rights. This is especially important in light of the growing awareness amongst the international community that women's rights are a core component of any human rights work, and that women's active participation is crucial for any sustainable development to take place.

Peace teams, perhaps even more than any other international peace institution, are well equipped to develop a progressive and gender-sensitive response to conflict. Its bottom-up, grassroots approach, its respect for the local culture, its educational method, combined with the modest life-style of its field teams and close contact with the communities they serve, are a great potential for starting this transformative journey, contributing to a more peaceful future for women and men.

Note:

Currently, WPP is finalizing the publication based on the results of the pilot research. This publication formulates some preliminary recommendations for civilian-based peace services in terms of incorporating a gender perspective in their work and will be published in the beginning of 2009. For more information, keep track of our website:

<http://www.ifor.org/WPP/index.html>



The Power of Movements - WPP at the AWID conference



Every three years, the AWID Forum brings together women's rights leaders and activists from around the world to strategize, network, celebrate, and learn in a highly charged atmosphere that fosters deep discussions and sustained personal and professional growth. *How do we understand movements? Why do movements matter? Why is it important for women to be having this conversation now?* These were the main questions raised during the 11th AWID International Forum in Cape Town, South Africa. From November 14-17, 2008, over 1,500 women's rights leaders and activists came together to discuss these topics. WPP Gender Officer Cristina Reyna was present at the Forum to ask the same questions to the women peace activists. Below are some of her impressions of the Forum:

“The Forum gave me the opportunity to not only participate in plenary sessions, workshops and caucus meetings on various topics - including some important ones related to women, peace and security - but also to meet with so many inspiring women peace activists from different countries, to share experiences, and discuss the challenges women on the ground are facing in their daily work. Important women doing highly important work, as noted in one of the break-out sessions I attended, called Sustaining women's organizations during conflicts. These organizations at the community level play a key role, as they provide resources and protection to those at risk, and thus are the backbone of the women's movement. They also serve as a bridge to the rest of the movement, ensuring communication between the ground and the international level.

In a certain sense, it was difficult to choose which workshops to attend and which ones to skip, since so many interesting ones were taking place at the same time. There was always in the back of my mind a feeling that something inspiring was being discussed in other rooms as well.

I participated in many different workshops, for instance on movement building; using law as a tool for change in conflict and post-conflict situations; gender education and women's human rights in Muslim contexts; the use of militia groups and armed forces to advance the agendas of state and non-state actors, and the UN as a legitimate space for women's organizing.



The Labyrinth of the Butterflies; a theatre show at the AWID conference

I also had a chance to engage with my fellow activists in 'more playful manners', such as theatre, dancing and a big march which was organized throughout the streets of Cape Town. To say it with the words of AWID's Srilatha Batliwala as expressed during the final plenary session: *The recognition that it is OK to play is important!* She noted that *“Laughter, singing and fun makes it easier to do the work that we do”*. Other topics highlighted by her included;

- The importance of an intergenerational way of working. Young women are not going anywhere (and neither are older women) without learning new ways of working together and ensuring that all voices are respected and utilised within our movements, this cannot be underscored enough.
- The urgency for an analysis of power in our work and within our own domain. This includes embracing of our own power like it is a lover.
- The need for ground rules and rules of engagement within our movements and spaces.

Two aspects that showed the inclusiveness of the Forum for me were the fact that young women were not just present at the Forum, but they were actively engaged in the Forum; and the fact that physically handicapped women from different countries and religions participated in the workshops. I was happy to see that the feminist movement was as broadly represented as it should be. Visiting the Forum allowed me to discuss and identify with common successes and struggles, and to feel the power of solidarity, to feel the power of movements.”

Note;

More information, including articles, reports, videos and photos from the Forum can be found online at: www.awid.org.



Introducing.... Merle Gosewinkel!

The WPP is very proud to introduce our new intern. Please read some introductory words from her:

“My name is Merle Gosewinkel, and since January 2009 I am working as the new intern at the WPP. I grew up in Hamburg, Germany, and started my studies in 2004 at the Humboldt Universität Berlin, where I did my Bachelor in Gender Studies and European Anthropology. In 2006 I came to the Netherlands to follow a Master Program at the *Universiteit van Amsterdam* (UVA). In September 2008, I graduated with an MA in Sociology, with an emphasis on Gender, Sexuality, and Society.



During my studies I worked as an intern from July 2007 until May 2008 at the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV) in Amsterdam on the project of the European Feminist Forum (EFF). It was during my time there, that I came across the work of the WPP. After finishing my studies, I applied for an internship at the WPP, since I found the issue of gender in peace building a very important and necessary subject to work on. Due to my background in Gender Studies, I am familiar with many aspects of women's lives, including in conflict areas. I hope to gain a deeper knowledge on the relationship between gender and peacekeeping during my time at the WPP. Women are one of the groups which suffer the most in an armed conflict. This is also related to their gender.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to work at the Women Peacemakers Program. Since my future plans are to work, if possible, in an NGO on the issue of gender, development and/or peace, I also hope that my internship will bring me one step closer to putting my plan into action, and will equip me with the necessary skills.”

Note:

WPP is regularly looking for interns who can work with the program for a minimum period of 6 months and are eligible to live and work in the Netherlands. For more information, please contact the WPP Information Officer José de Vries (j.devries@ifor.org).



The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) “Gender, Youth and Peacebuilding Training 2009”

By Alessia Tosi – UNOY Gender Programme Officer



On 12 and 13 January 2009, the first UNOY Peacebuilders capacity-building training on gender for staff members took place at the International Secretariat in The Hague, The Netherlands. The training was organized in collaboration with The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)’s Women Peacemakers Program, whose trainers facilitated the two days, and brought together young NGO staff members involved in peacebuilding, human right defence and conflict-resolution.

The Gender, Youth and Peacebuilding Training is part of the broader context of the UNOY Peacebuilders Gender Policy Plan, and constitutes an important initial step in the achievement of the long-term goal of gender mainstreaming the work of its International Secretariat and, in a further phase, of its member organisations.

Although the training proved to be the first experience with the topic of gender for the majority of the UNOY Peacebuilders’ staff members, it soon became obvious to everyone that gender is already touching everyone’s life. Just by looking around the training room, where over 90% of the participants was female, people couldn’t help but start to realise the gender-based dynamics of daily life and the professional environment. Where had the men gone?! How come only women seemed to be interested in the topic?

Under the guidance of the facilitators, participants laid their own experiences on the table and tried to give an answer to those questions, while critically analysing the structure and dynamics of the organisation from a gender-sensitive perspective.

Even though it is commonly known that the peacebuilding field amongst youth tends to be women-dominated in the Netherlands (although the paid jobs might be more mixed), one does not really make sense of such gendered dynamics until some self-reflection is done. The discussions focused on which members of the team do the shopping for lunch and why, but also who takes decisions and is addressed as the leading representative by external partners. The fact that some desk officers have always been approached as being male by partners of certain regions, or that some reports do not include gender-sensitive information, or the fact that pictures of organisations just include men even though it is known that a lot of women work there, are all examples of gender-based dynamics which the team became more aware of during the training.

This gender-aware self-reflection was a complex task, made harder by the acknowledgement that dynamics other than gender also play a role in power dynamics, making it difficult to detect what the main factor is. For example, UNOY staff identified the amount of knowledge a person has regarding the organisation's internal processes and activities as the real source of decision-making power. So does this then mean that overall, UNOY Peacebuilders is a gender-friendly organisation? The question turned out to be ill-posed. What should be asked is whether everyone has access to crucial information. Work must be done to guarantee that everyone has access to important knowledge.

It also became clear to each staff member that achieving real gender equality requires constant common effort, and goes beyond quantitative measures. It is important to always ask what the relation is between men and women in a certain situation; where they are represented and where not; and why this is the case. This will help to strengthen the impact and scope of the work.



The participatory training approach generated good and lively discussions, and moreover a strong commitment of the participants to the topic of gender mainstreaming. Participants felt they could better assess how gender issues can be included in policy planning, implementation, and evaluation; and why it is important to do this.

Although the Gender Training succeeded in its purpose of strengthening the young participants' understanding of gender concepts and issues; the next step will be to put the acquired skills into action. In particular, the experience and knowledge gained in the training will be used to carry out a context-sensitive gender analysis of the UNOY network, which will serve as a reference point for future steps in the implementation of its Gender Policy. Furthermore, the UNOY Peacebuilders is looking into the opportunity to organise, in collaboration with IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program, a 'second-level' gender training focusing on gender mainstreaming practice. This advanced training will be flanked by a basic training, made necessary by the high turn-over of interns at the UNOY International Secretariat.

The UNOY Peacebuilders would like to express its special gratitude to Cristina Reyna, Franny Parren and José de Vries from IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program for their valuable input, competence and facilitative capacity. The UNOY Peacebuilders is also grateful to all the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to learning, and for the seriousness they accorded to the issue.

As UNOY Peacebuilders, we look forward to further collaborating with IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program on the crucial issue of gender.





Crisis in Gaza – Reactions from Women’s Groups: Statement by Israeli Women's Organizations

IFOR’s WPP received the following statement via email;

We, women's organizations from a broad spectrum of political views demand an end to the bombing and other tools of death, and call for the immediate start of deliberations to talk peace and not make war. The dance of death and destruction must come to an end. We demand that war no longer be an option, nor violence a strategy, nor killing an alternative. The society we want is one in which every individual can lead a life of security – personal, economic, and social.

It is clear that the highest price is paid by women and others from the periphery – geographic, economic, ethnic, social, and cultural – who now, as always, are excluded from the public eye and dominant discourse.

The time for women is now. We demand that words and actions be conducted in another language.

In Solidarity, Ahoti- For Women in Israel; Anuar- Jewish and Arab Women Leadership; Artemis- Economic Society for Women; Aswat- Palestinian Gay Women; Bat Shalom; Coalition of Women for Peace; Economic Empowerment for Women; Feminancy: College for Women's Empowerment; Feminist Activist Group – Jerusalem; Feminist Activist Group – Tel Aviv; International Women's Commission: Israeli Branch; Isha L'Isha- Haifa Feminist Center; Itach: Women Lawyers for Social Justice; Kol Ha-Isha- Jerusalem Women's Center; Mahut Center- Information, Training, and Employment for Women; Shin Movement- Equal Representation for Women; Supportive Community- Women's Business Development Center
 □TANDI – Movement of Democratic Women for Israel; Tmura: The Israeli Antidiscrimination Legal Center; University against Harassment – Tel Aviv; Women and their Bodies; Women's Parliament; Women's Spirit- Financial Independence for Women Victims of Violence

FOR’s Latin America program has been targeted and monitored by state agents

The International Secretariat of IFOR received the following message from our Branch in the USA:

In 2005, we informed FOR supporters that more than 10,000 pages of FBI files had been released to us, documenting decades of surveillance of the organization. Now, we have just learned that for two full years – *since December 2006 – our Latin America program has been targeted and monitored by state agents*. Specifically, e-mail messages to and from our Bogotá office and San José de Apartadó field team have been intercepted by SIJIN, the Colombian police intelligence agency!

This covert action is a direct violation of our right to privacy as a humanitarian activist organization. *FOR’s e-mail account was among more than 150 e-mail accounts of human rights organizations, journalists, academics, and labor organizations that were targeted*. We’ve also learned that the Colombian military paid for computer hard drives “of interest to intelligence” agencies. The June 2007 break-in and stealing of FOR’s Bogotá office computers containing sensitive files on our work with members of Colombian peace communities may have been a direct result of this state-sanctioned surveillance.

To take action, please visit:

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2507/t/6813/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=26347&track=0812actionappeal

For more information on the Work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation on Latin America and the Caribbean, please visit:

<http://forusa.org/programs/tflac/tflac.html>

One Million Signature Campaign Honored with Simone de Beauvoir Award

The One Million Signatures Campaign (a wide campaign demanding an end to legal discrimination against women in Iranian law) has been awarded the Simone de Beauvoir Award which was established in honor and memory of this Feminist theorist and writer. For the past two years on the 9th of January, the birthday of Simone de Beauvoir an Award has been given to persons or groups which work to promote women's rights. Julia Kristeva, the renowned Bulgarian-French philosopher, writer and psychoanalyst who is the founder of the Award and who heads the jury for the Award announced the decision of the jury.

For more information on the Simone de Beauvoir Award, please visit:

<http://prixsimonedebeauvoir.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.kristeva.fr/>

For more information on Change for Equality, please visit their website:

<http://www.campaign4equality.info>

Mobile Cinema project in Congo: Driving into the heart of darkness



Source:
www.ifproductions.nl

The documentary "Fighting the Silence" tells the story of ordinary Congolese women and men that are struggling to change their society: one that prefers to blame victims rather than prosecute rapists. Rape survivors and their families speak out openly about the suffering they endured because their culture considers women second class citizens and rape a taboo. The objective of the documentary is to raise worldwide awareness about sexual violence in Congo.

The producers of the documentary considered it essential to bring the film back to Congo to reach the people concerned by sexual violence. They developed the idea for a mobile driving cinema to screen the film 'Fighting the Silence' in Eastern Congo. This is done in the form of THE MOBILE CINEMA by making use of a car (4x4), a big screen and projection materials. From September 2008 onwards, the mobile cinema has toured from village to village for 12 months in the South Kivu district. The Mobile Cinema, and in particular the fact that it confronts the local population and perpetrators with the consequences of sexual violence, forms the basis of their new documentary 'Driving into the heart of darkness'.

For more information on the project, please visit:

<http://www.ifproductions.nl/eng/news-frame.php>

Former child soldiers launch UN-backed network for children caught in conflict

In November 2008, Former child soldiers have teamed up with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to launch a new group seeking to give a voice to young people who have suffered from violence. With an estimated of one quarter million children worldwide unlawfully recruited to take part in armed conflicts, the Network of Young People Affected by

War (NYPAW) – spearheaded by five former child soldiers and young people who have experienced war first-hand – aims to help children whose lives have been derailed by fighting.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=29031&Cr=children&Cr1=armed+conflict>

Resources



New Resources:

Spain National Action Plan on 1325

The Government of Spain, taking account of all the international commitments signed to contribute to peace building and the need to integrate the gender perspective into armed conflicts, has drawn up an Action Plan for the application of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which revolves around the following objectives:

- 1) To strengthen participation of women in peace missions and in peace missions' decision-making bodies;
- 2) To promote the inclusion of the gender perspective in all peace building activities;
- 3) To ensure specific training for personnel participating in peace operations, on matters of equality and about the different aspects of Resolution 1325, and in addition, to foster knowledge and dissemination of Resolution 1325;
- 4) To protect the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas (including camps for refugees and displaced persons) and to foster women's empowerment and participation in the processes where peace accords are negotiated and applied;
- 5) To incorporate the principle of equal treatment and opportunities for women and men in the planning and execution of activities for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as specialized skills training in that regard for all personnel participating in said processes and
- 6) To foster Spanish civil society's participation in connection with Resolution 1325.

To read Spain's Action Plan, please visit:

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/SpainNAP.pdf>

To read more on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, please visit:

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/res1325.pdf>

Funders Directory

The Funders Directory is designed to serve grantseekers and grantmakers. The International Human Rights Funders Group hopes the grantmaking information will help human rights groups find new funding sources, and funders to learn more about each other. Grantseekers can use the information to search for funders by issue, geography, types of support, etc. The Funders Directory encourages users to carefully review the information before contacting prospective funders.

Funders can use the information to find colleagues who share programmatic interests or who have expertise in a particular area of human rights. If your foundation already makes human rights grants, please be sure that it is accurately represented in the Directory.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.hrfunders.org/funders/index.html>

Virtual Discussion: Filling the Gaps: A Virtual Discussion on Gender, Peace, and Security Research

During October 2008 UN-INSTRAW brought together over 90 academics and research professionals from universities, research institutes, NGOs and international organizations from around the world in a three-week virtual dialogue. The purpose of the dialogue was to exchange information and stimulate discussion on gender, peace and security research with the goal of identifying gaps in current research and tools and methods to fill them.

Recommendations and a summary of this dialogue can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/media-centre/press-releases/un-calls-for-more-collaboration-to-fill-research-gaps-on-gender-peace-and-sec.html>

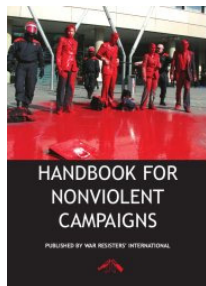


Women and war - International Committee of the Red Cross

This publication looks at the ways in which women can be affected by conflict and the actions taken by the International Committee of the Red Cross to take their specific needs into account. It also promotes those rules of international humanitarian law which provide specific protection for women in war.

To download the publication, please visit:

www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/p0944



Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns – War Resisters' International

In February 2009 War Resisters' International WRI will launch its latest publication the "Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns". The Handbook includes sections on how to plan strategic nonviolent campaigns, how to prepare for nonviolent actions, tools for working in groups, the connection between gender and nonviolence, a series of stories from the work in nonviolence from groups all over the world, a long list of practical training exercises, and a list of related resources. For more information, please visit:

<http://wri-irg.org/node/6260>

New documentaries:



Short Documentary: Universal Jurisdiction: Rape as Torture

The short documentary *Universal Jurisdiction: Rape as Torture* focuses on the importance of recognizing the crime of rape as torture in national and international courts. It can be downloaded from the website: Women's Link Worldwide. To view the documentary, please go to the following link:

http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/prog_ge_universaljursidiction.html



1001 Seconds of Feminist Visions – video on WIDE Conference

The Women in Developing Europe (WIDE) held its 2008 annual conference in The Hague, The Netherlands. Women from different parts of the world came together to take part in seminars and workshops dealing with a diverse range of gender issues: from (social) justice, gender equality and hiv/aids, to labour, trade and migration. Furthermore, the European policies and strategies on these subjects were discussed from a "glocal"

perspective – global concerns in a local framework. 1001 Seconds of Feminist Visions, a Shahrzad News video production, takes you throughout the three days of the WIDE

conference 2008. It sums up the highlights and draws near some (feminist) insights on present and future gender challenges related to development.

To view the documentary, please visit:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7aetz_shahrzad-news-wide-vredes-paleis_news

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

Calendar



*** 2- 13 March 2009: Commission on the Status of Women**

The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 2 to 13 March 2009. The theme of this 53rd session will be “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS”. For more information, please visit:

<http://un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

*** 7- 8 March 2009: International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security**

Coinciding with International Women’s Day (March 8), women leaders from around the world will convene for the International Colloquium for Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security (the Colloquium) at the SKD Stadium in Monrovia, Liberia. The Conference, co-convened by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland, seeks to create an environment for women and their champions around the world to discuss, learn, demonstrate and act on the benefits and lessons learned from women in leadership. For more information, please visit:

<http://womenscolloquium.org/col.html>

*** 8 March 2009: International Women’s Day**

Various events are taking place all over the world. WPP is taking part in the launch of the ‘WeCan- campaign’ in the Netherlands. This event is organized by Movise

(<http://www.movisie.nl/>) For more information, keep track of our website: <http://ifor.org/WPP/>

*** 13 - 15 March 2009: International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace: Walking the Talk through fear of the unknown to understanding and harmony – Michigan USA**

A conference promoting Inter-religious dialogue to explore the challenges of extremism, intolerance, prejudice, fear, scapegoating, demonization, and Islamophobia, and the promise of reason, understanding, compassion, harmony, and peace

For more information, please visit: http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences_RCP.htm

*** 30 March – 3 April, 2009: Engaging Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality - Brazil**

At this event, 450 participants from around the world will share their work in applied research, policy, and program development. Their work challenges rigid gender norms and engages men and boys in reducing violence against women and girls, promoting sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and fatherhood and caregiving.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.engagingmen2009.org/>

*** 20 - 22 April 2009: 3rd International Conference on women's studies "Gender at the Crossroads: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives - Cyprus**

The Third International Conference, which will be held at the EMU campus in Famagusta, North Cyprus between April 20-22, 2009, aims at bringing together scholars, researchers, performers and activists from various disciplines in the social sciences to present their works and exchange ideas in a wide range of issues such as economic, socio-cultural, law, politics, communication, design etc. under the general theme "Gender at the Crossroads: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives". For more information, please visit:

<http://cws.emu.edu.tr/GCR2009/>

*** 24 May 2009: International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament**

Like every year, WPP will celebrate May 24, the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. [See announcement below the calendar.](#)

*** 1 - 3 May 2009: 6th Global Conference: War, Virtual War and Human Security – Hungary**

This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference seeks to provide a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the nature, purpose and experience of war, and its impacts on all aspects of security, human security and on communities across the world.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/vww/vww6/cfp.html>

*** 4 - 7 June 2009: 7th European Feminist Research Conference - The Netherlands**

The 7th European Feminist Research Conference is an international event based on cutting-edge scholarship. The conference will reflect a diversity of feminist and gender studies research incorporating perspectives from across the broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. The focus is on the way in which knowledge, politics, and the imagination inform gendered cultures in contemporary Europe.

For more information, please visit: www.7thfeministconference.org



May 24 2009: International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

Voices of peace from the Balkan and Caucasus



In honor of May 24, -the International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament-, IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) and Musicians without Borders will organize the seminar "Voices of peace from the Balkan and Caucasus" on May 24, 2009, in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Pioneering women peace activists and female musicians from the Balkan and Caucasus will come together to share their experiences with peacebuilding, reconciliation and trauma healing. In an exciting seminar they will explore similarities and differences between the regions, as well as opportunities for cooperation and strengthening of each other's voices. The women will interact with the audience in lively debates and workshops, focusing on women's contributions to peacebuilding and the role that art and music can play in bringing divided people together. The day will be closed with a musical performance.

The seminar aims to offer a space for women peacemakers, musicians, civil society actors and interested others to explore how peace and security can be enhanced in the regions, and what both regions can learn from each other.

Prior to the public event in Utrecht, WPP will produce the May 24 Pack, which contains articles on the topic, lists of resources, suggestions for actions, and a list of women's organizations working for peace. IFOR co-produces this pack with the International Peace Bureau (IPB) in Geneva. For previous editions of the May 24 package, please visit our website: http://ifor.org/WPP/wppmaterials_newsletters_archive.html

For more information, please contact WPP Information Officer José de Vries (j.devries@ifor.org). Keep track of our website for updates on the program and venue: <http://ifor.org/WPP/>



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).

For information about IFOR or the IFOR branch in your country, please contact the IFOR international secretariat:

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