



# Commission on the Status of Women

## Report on the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women

February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup> 2008

By Mary Scott  
VP National Council of Women of Canada  
(NCWC)

### Table of Contents

Introduction: .....	2
Purpose and Accomplishments: .....	3
Conclusions .....	6
APPENDICES.....	7
Resources:.....	7
Workshops/Sessions Attended .....	12
Quotes from my notes: .....	14
Rosemary Mallory's comments re New York and the CSW UN (Feb/March 2008) .....	19

Report on the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the  
Commission on the Status of Women

By Mary Scott  
VP National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)

**Introduction:**

The 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008. I was fortunate to attend, along with Muriel Smith, VP, National Council of Women of Canada, Rashmi Bhat, VP, National Council of Women of Canada, and Rosemary Mallory, Convener, Global Affairs for National Council of Women of Canada. As well, NCWC facilitated several students and members from the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) attendance at the CSW meetings. The FAFIA delegation included diverse representation from across Canada, and Nancy Peckford, Kristen Wilkinson, and Nancy Baroni, as staff, did a great job in keeping the communication flowing amongst the Canadian NGOs. I was particularly pleased to share an apartment with Muriel, and Rose Beatty (past president and CIR for CFUW).

There was representation from other national Councils of Women, the International Council of Women, and also NCWC Federates. ICW sponsored a workshop (*What are the levels of financing for gender equality and women's empowerment*) and the Councils of Women of Great Britain and Finland each did workshops. Five O, which ICW is a member, held a workshop on *Investing in Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women: Challenges and Opportunities*. There were approximately 2,000 Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the session, although many did not stay for the whole 2 weeks.

Trying to put two weeks of immersion into the life and work of the CSW is an impossible task – even if this were a book, it would probably not do justice to all that happened during that period – the workshops, the caucus meetings, the plenaries, the receptions, the lunches, the small group discussions, the dialogue with women literally from all corners of the globe. I was impressed with the way the NGOs came together, with different backgrounds and perspectives, but all dedicated to moving the agenda forward to improve the lives of women. The interaction between the NGOs and the formal body that negotiated the Outcomes Document, was facilitated by a very adept chair of the Bureau (which services the CSW), a Mr. Olivier Belle from Belgium

This paper will outline the major work that was accomplished, the themes and resolutions from the formal meetings. I will also briefly describe some of the workshops I attended, plus a listing of the resources that I brought back with me and that are available, quotes from my notes, and the paper prepared by Rosemary Mallory, Convener Global Affairs for NCWC.

## **Purpose and Accomplishments:**

The principal output of the Commission on the Status of Women is the so-called **Agreed Conclusions** on priority themes set for each year. Agreed Conclusions, contain an analysis of the priority theme of concern and a set of concrete recommendations for Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.

In addition to the Agreed Conclusions, the Commission also adopts a number of resolutions on a range of issues, including the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; and women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS.

The final report of the Commission is submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

This year, the theme was **Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**. The Agreed Conclusions on this theme are posted on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/yrmc6b>. This 9 page document, adopted by the Commission, is brought to the attention of the General Assembly as an input into the preparations for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008. There is much that is in the document that the NGOs worked to see included. For example, there was a strong youth caucus that worked to get “girls” included. There was not the acceptance of pay equity that many would like to have seen, however there was a statement about “decent work for all”.

There have been many international commitments over the years to the necessity of providing adequate resources specifically focused on women’s empowerment and achieving gender equality. However, the reality is that only modest progress can be seen in turning these commitments into actions that improve women’s lives and eliminate gender gaps. Women are still the majority of the world’s absolute poor and those without access to education. Disparities in equal salaries for equal work, continued high maternal mortality, HIV infection rates in young women and the pandemic of violence against women are just some evidence that resources and political will have not measured up to the commitments made.

Recommendations that came from the Expert Group Report (held prior to the CSW) made recommendations under four themes 1) Macroeconomic policies and the Monterrey Consensus; 2) Public finance and gender responsive budgeting; 3) Bilateral and multilateral aid; 4) Funding for the Women’s Movement. These general themes formed the basis of many of the workshops held during the CSW. It was emphasized repeatedly that gender equality and women’s empowerment are critical cornerstones of development effectiveness and core to the achievement of all development goals.

There were 5 resolutions that were approved by the CSW. The first four have been supported before at earlier CSW meetings, the last one (on HIV/AIDS) is new. A young woman, Mirlande Demers (l'Action des femmes handicapées), who was part of the official Canadian delegation was instrumental in getting a clause included in that resolution: *Deeply concerned also by the increased risk of HIV/AIDS facing women and girls with disabilities from, inter alia, social, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights*

They are as follows:

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (Advance unedited version)

<http://tinyurl.com/43dcp7>

Ending female genital mutilation (Advance unedited version)

<http://tinyurl.com/5sukcy>

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (Advance unedited version)

<http://tinyurl.com/4qkabp>

Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Advance unedited version)

<http://tinyurl.com/6l46ed>

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (Advance unedited version)

<http://tinyurl.com/6mbad2>

Besides the main theme, and the resolutions, there was discussion on an “emerging issue”. This year’s Emerging Issue was **Gender Perspectives on Climate Change**. This was a very interesting and forward looking discussion at the interactive panel that I attended. The session was moderated by Mr. Ara Margarian of Armenia. The panelists included: Ms. Minu Hemmati, member of Gendercc – Women for Climate Justice; Ms. Lorena Aguilar, senior adviser to the World Conservation Union; Ms. Anastasia Pinto, adviser to the Centre for Organization, Research and Education in India; Ms. Rachel Nampinga, programmes director for Eco-Watch Africa; and Ms. Sri Woro Harijono, director of the Meteorological and Geophysical Agency (BMG) in Indonesia. Participants called attention to the fact that climate change is not a gender-neutral phenomenon, and highlighted many of its gender-specific impacts. Given that climate change disproportionately affects the poor, and that women form the majority of the world’s poor, women are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Participants noted further that women are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, fires, and mudslides. Many women live in conditions of social exclusion. When, for example, skills such as swimming and tree climbing are taught mainly to boys, women and girls are more likely to

die when a natural disaster strikes. Indigenous women are especially susceptible to natural disasters. The massive and unequal impact of climate change in the developing world also impinges directly upon women's livelihoods. In Africa, women rely directly on forest resources to meet health, nutritional, economic and cultural needs of their families and communities. Deforestation poses a direct threat to women's economic well-being because forests provide a significant source of environmentally-based income generating activities for women. Participants also pointed out that the decline of rainfall and the scarcity of water resources threatened women's security, health and well-being. According to estimates, by 2050, there will be 250 million environmental refugees, or people who are forced to flee their homes due to increasing incidence of droughts, desertification and extreme weather conditions.

Actions that are being taken to increase women's participation in climate change activities include global and national networks, awareness-raising, advocacy for greater participation of women in the climate change negotiations, and promoting the inclusion of gender perspectives in policy formulation and evaluation. In this regard, the special role of civil society organizations was highlighted. Participants also raised the fact that women have been engaged in a number of activities aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change. Several national level examples were given of women spearheading massive tree planting efforts, household waste-recycling initiatives, and projects to produce fertilizers from organic waste, in support of the "four R's" – reduce, reuse, recycle and replant. Participants noted that climate change is best addressed in the context of sustainable development, because of its impact on the environment and on economic and social development. At the national level, it was suggested that the issue of climate change from a gender perspective should be integrated into all national policies and programmes that address sustainable development.

The Review Theme at the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CSW "**Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building**". There were many NGOs advocating a strong position for the UN to take to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. One such group was the Voice of Women for Peace from Canada.

More secure funding is needed for gender equality issues in post-conflict reconstruction, including for institution-building, legal reform, women's economic empowerment and basic services, and to bridge the gap between reconstruction interventions and development cooperation. Participants called for *increased resources* to strengthen women's participation in peace processes and peacebuilding, including increased core budgets, innovative funding measures and adequate funding for gender equality expertise, including in relevant departments of the Secretariat.

Finally, there was an opportunity to begin the discussion on the theme for next year's CSW – **“The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.”** Issues related to the political and social economy of care, the promotion of more equitable parental leave policies, the role of men and boys in sharing domestic and caregiving responsibilities, and the sharing of responsibilities for caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS were discussed during the interactive panel.

## **Conclusions**

Although there was disappointment that the Outcomes Document/Agreed Conclusions was not stronger in language particularly regarding commitments by the world's governments to fund national machinery supporting women's equality (targets/timelines) and stronger support for inclusion of women in the peace making and peacebuilding process, there was a joy to being part of the whole process, to be with women from such different backgrounds, but all committed to making the world safer, healthier, and supportive of women. The CSW meetings are the one way each year for women to come together, to tell their stories to officials, sympathetic agencies, and to each other. The language in the Outcomes Document is only one of the measures of success and the energy experienced and shared will continue to push the rights agenda further as it has given many NGOs strength to fight another day.

### **Please Note:**

**Photos from the CSW are posted at <http://tinyurl.com/2639oj>**

# APPENDICES

## Resources:

NGO Support to the CSW, Presentation by Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women

Guide to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (Based on the CSW 2005 Handbook), FAFIA

ICW Newsletter, December 2007

Moving the Money for Women A CD-ROM for CSW 2008 Includes resources, tools and essential documents about financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

UNIFEM Australia Annual Report 2006-2007

Iran: Women's Rights Defenders Defy Repression – Stop Violence Against Women, Amnesty International

Celebrating NGOs: 60 Years with the United Nations “The Journey Continues”; DPI, September, 2007

Building a United Nations That Really Works for All Women; Campaign on the UN Gender Equality Architecture (the GEAR Campaign)

Statement by Canada to the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN CSW; February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

DPI (Department of Public Information) Climate Change (CD) How it Impacts Us All; Conference September 2007

International Development Research Centre (2 CDs) IDRC 2007-2008 Includes 101 e-books. Includes additions to in-focus collection, information on IDRC's research programs, instructions on how to apply for funding and awards.

Gender and Security Sector Reform (CD) The Toolkit contains Police Reform and Gender; Defence Reform and Gender; Penal Reform and Gender; Border Management and Gender; Gender Training for Security Sector Personnel and much more.

Gender Info 2007 (CD) To attain gender equality, the Beijing PFA called on the international community to generate and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation. This GenderInfo is an answer to this call and includes a global database of gender stats and indicators on a wide

range of policy areas, including population, families, health, education, work and political participation. A truly amazing resource.

MDG Info 2007 (CD) An opportunity to explore where we're at in the attaining of the MDGs.

Gender and Taxation: Improving Revenue Generation and Social Protection in Developing Countries. IDRC

Gender Equality as Smart Economics –A World Bank Group Action Plan (CD) includes a video, and a brochure

State of World Population 2007, Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth  
UNFPA

Report in response to GA resolution 63/137 of Dec. 19 2007 on the Improvement of the status of women in the UN system by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary General, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Feb. 27, 2008

UNIFEM Annual Report 2007

2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, Women and International Migration

Gender Responsive Budget Initiatives at CSW 52: How Do They Matter for Girls

Making a Difference Strategic Communications to End Violence against Women (UNIFEM) A toolkit

Demand and the Debate, Dorchen A. Leidholdt, Co-Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

Stop Rape Now, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

Somali Men and Women Against Female Genital Mutilation UNFPA

Empowering Women Worldwide, The History of Project Five-O, Syliva. G. Perry

UN 5<sup>th</sup> Women's World Conference (hand out)

Taking Stock Update: Afghan Women and Girls Seven Years On, Womenkind Worldwide, Feb. 2008

Eliminating Violence Against Women: Pursuing national and regional efforts, A guide for NGO study and action, NGO CSW, New York



Agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child (outcome of the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the CSW)  
Final Report International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005

“Antigone” Issue #3, Women World Leaders

Living Testimony Obstetric Fistula and Inequities in Maternal Health, UNFPA

Growing Up Urban, Youth Supplement, State of the World Population, 2007

Gender and Bioenergy, IUCN, The World Conservation Union, WEDO

Gender Equality and Adaptation, IUCN, WEDO

Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction, Good Practices and Lessons Learned, 2007, ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)

Gender Equity and the Environment, Why Gender Matters, Women Who Changed Environmental Thinking, TUNZA, (The UNEP Magazine for Youth)

World Ecology Report, Spring 2008, Critical Issues in Health and Environment (WIT) World Information Transfer

Women and Water, Women 2000 and Beyond, February 2005

Making Risky Environments Safer, Women 2000 and Beyond, April 2004

The Effect of Military on Climate Change, Paper by Pauline Cantwell, March 2007

Gender Perspectives on Climate Change, Written Statement by Rachael Nampinga, Programs Director, Eco-Watch Africa

Agriculture Alert, Weather Modification Experimentation and Atmospheric Testing Programs, USDA Crop Loss

Energy and Gender in Rural Sustainable Development, Rome, 2006, FAO

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Working Group Reports: Key Findings, Dr. R K Pachauri, Chairman, IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change)

Violence Against Women, Pan American Health Organization, and UNIFEM

Annual Report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Ms. Sigma Huda

Report on Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women, Expert Group Meeting, October 2007

52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CSW & the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Statistical Commission, Joint dialogue on indicators to measure violence against women, Issues Paper, Feb, 2008

Statement by Prof. Yakin Erturk, Special Rappaporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, Feb. 2008

Ending Female Genital Mutilation, Report of the Secretary General, November 2007

Prostitution is not “Sex Work”; Prostitution is a Form of Violence Against Women, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

What Now, Newsletter of the National Organization for Women, New York City, The founding chapter. Winter, 2007

Investing in Women: What is Being Done; Short Biographies of Panelists

WIDE, Financing for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, WIDE position statement

Gender Sensitive Budgeting in Local Governments; The Marmara Model, IKAM – Istanbul Research Centre on Women

Key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, Written statement, Lydia Alpizar Duran, Association for Women’s Rights in Development and Chairperson of EGM

Key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, Written statement by Mireille Brunings-Stolz, Central Bank of Suriname

Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women; Report of the Expert Group Meeting, Organized by DAW and Hosted by the Government of Norway, September 2007

Advancing Gender Equality for Aid Effectiveness: Experiences from Africa, Summary of study reports, October 2007. UNIFEM

Report from the Online discussion on Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women; Organized by DAW, June to July 2007

Women and Property, A core Programme of GROOTS Kenya

GROOTS Kenya, Operating together in Sisterhood

Response, United Methodist Women, December 2007  
Mobilizing Institutional, Legal and Cultural Resources to Achieve Gender Equality; Statement submitted by the Baha'i

Investing in Decent Work for Women; Trade Union Statement to the UN CSW, Feb. 2008

Cairo Declaration, High Level Regional Meeting on Financing for Development, October, 2007

Gender Equality for Development Effectiveness; National Development Planning in the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNIFEM Discussion Paper, January 2008

Intra-Household Distribution and Poverty Dynamics: Empirical Analyses on Bangladesh, Edited by Abdur Razzaque, Bazhul H. Khondker, Selim Raihan

Notes from "Making Tax Reforms Work for Women: Mobilizing Tax Reforms for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment", Preliminary findings from research supported by IDRC, UNDP and the Ford Foundation. Q & A included.

Gender Responsive Budgeting, Quarterly Newsletter, UNIFEM, February 2008 (First Issue)

## **Workshops/Sessions Attended**

### **Investing in Women and Girls**

Mr. Ban I-moon, Secretary General, HE Mme. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Minister of Public Service and Administration of South Africa, and Mr. Lloyd Blankfein, Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Panelists: Ms Sabine Bethune, Senator of Belgium Parliament; Ms. Muriel Siebert, Founder, Chairwoman and CEO, Production International, and Ms. Inez Murray, VP for Technical Assistance and Programmes, Women's World Bank. Moderator: Ms. Rhonda Schaffler, Bloomberg TV Anchor.

**Women of Distinction Award** – for Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary General, for Peacebuilding Support, held at the Turkish Centre, sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY

**Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Middle Eastern and North African Governments**, with Asma Khader (Jordan), HH Princess Lubna Al-Saud (Saudi Arabia), and Mrs. Salwa (President of the US Federation for Middle East Peace)

**Connecting to the Power of Women**, with Dr. Janet Eaton, Co-Chair, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

**Buyers and Traffickers: Partners in Sexual Exploitation**, with Meilssa Farley, Prostitution Research and Education; Laura Lederer, Senior Director for Global Projects, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Ted Bunch, Co Founder, A Call to Men: The National Association of Men and Women Committed to Ending Violence Against Women; Sonia Ossorio, President, National Organization for Women – New York City; Rachel Paul, Representative of MAPP, Movement Against Prostitution and Pornography & the Program Manager, Democracy and Human Rights Program for Iraq; Moderator: Dorchen Leidholdt, Founding Board Member, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

**Defending Women Defending Rights**, with speakers Sunila Abeysekera, Sri Lanka; Charolotte Bunch, Centre for Women's Global Leadership; Mary Jane Real, Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign, Philippines; Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, Uganda

**Reception:** Canadian Delegation, Permanent Mission of Canada

**Reception:** National Council of Women of the US, and the South African Consulate General

**Interactive dialogue on “Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding”** with Ms Carolyn McAskie, Head, UN Peacebuilding Support Office, & Ms Gina Torry, Coordinator, NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security

CSW52 Parallel Meeting, **Widowhood: The Neglected Gender Issue**

IFFAMPAC, **International Federation of Family Associations of Missing Persons from Armed Conflicts**

**Voice, Influence, Justice, Security, The Keys to Inclusive and Sustainable Peace Building** UNIFEM

Emerging Issues Panel; **Gender Perspectives on Climate Change**, Written Statement by Sri Woro B. Harijonon, DG, Meteorological Geophysical Agency, Indonesia & Lorena Aguilar, Senior Gender Advisor, World Conservation Union.

Joint Dialogue of **the CSW and the Statistical Commission**, with Ms. Grace Bediako, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service; Ms. Linda Laura Sabbadini, Director, Division for Surveys on Living Conditions and Quality of Life, ISTAT, Italy; Ms. Sonia Montano, Chief, Women and Development Unit, ECLAC

**Consultation Day for NGOs** – Participated in the **Gender Equality Architecture** workshop. Also heard Vivian Pender (Chair, NGO CSW/NY); H E Ambassador Ollivier Belle, Chairperson, Bureau of the CSW; Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary General and Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women; Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director for DAW; and Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Professor Columbia University

**Engaging local governments in gender-responsive budgeting and planning, Panelists** Celia Reyes, Co-director, Poverty and Economic Policy, Philippines; Celia Flor, City Councilor, Philippines & Executive Director DAWN; Godofredo Reteraction, City Planning and Development, Escalante City, Philippines (supported by IDRC)

**The Role of Sudanese Women in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Women in Post Conflict Peace Building**, sponsored by the African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development

Video – **Stop the Cutting**; FGM – 3 million girls affected this year; No benefits, and much harm. Proactive approach – changes by affected communities.

Caucus Participation: Linkage Caucus; Canadian Caucus; Coordinating Caucus

## Quotes from my notes:

UNIFEM is the only operational agency working for women at the UN. System wide coherence – Renewed focus is needed. (Charlotte Bunch – Executive Director, Centre for Women’s Global Leadership)

Violence affects women irrespective of class, race, age, education or physical ability. 1/3 are killed by their male partners. (Secty General Ban Ki-moon)

Can’t make poverty history unless we make violence history (Secty General Ban Ki-moon)

Plight of widows – destitute, begging – this is a serious issue in my country.

Trafficking for purposes of organ transplants – women and children at highest risk.

Business and Professional Women – have 12 women here from Canada

Gender Responsive Budget – now in 50 countries (UNIFEM)

Follow up to the Monteray Consensus – need: Macroeconomic framework necessary for women’s equality and gaps addressed – commitment to poverty reduction. (Isabelle Bakker, York University, Canada)

Dominant concerns of World Bank – payment of debt a priority rather than social programs a detriment for women (Global Fund for Women)

While gender budgets important, not necessarily producing results for women – macro necessary.

Sex disaggregated data important. Look at infrastructure expenditures and impact on women.

CEDAW – nothing about financing, but obligation to end discrimination.

In South Africa, the one action that will make a difference – financing for poverty reduction.

Invest in education, decent work and public services – (Mrs. Eastman from Education International Unions)

Building relationships – lessons learned from Bougainville. Using the traditional methods from a matriarchial society. Re empower the Bougainville women. Post conflict means picking up the pieces. When conflict brewing, identify it and prevent it. Would have been a different outcome if women were allowed to

organize before. (During the 1960s rich copper deposits were identified on Bougainville. From 1965 on there were continuous confrontations between Bougainvillean villagers and landowners and the prospecting geologists. Then, in one of the most regrettable incidents in Australia's colonial administration, riot police using bulldozers and tear gas forcibly expelled unarmed villagers, including women and children, from land required for the mining township and port facilities.)

CEDAW, and Paris Declaration and Monteray Consensus tools to advance women's equality. (Anamah Tan, President ICW)

Funding for women's machinery underresourced.

Violence and connection to economic factors – Size of disparity, of inequality directly linked to violence. Correlation studies – highest violence, including political violence directly related to lower and middle income. In the US, have the highest homicide rates, and the highest disparity of income. Relationship between violence and income disparity. (Dr. Lee)

Experience in Ireland – 350 groups working hard to make changes. Up to 3 generations have never worked – 47% of children in poverty. See reducing poverty a way to reduce violence. High suicide rate – a culture of violence – Not even upper class benefits – the violence perpetuates a pathological state that moves towards death.

In Kenya – political violence – identify traditional ways to conflict resolution. Gross inequalities result in violence.

No matter how much money goes to resolve and prevent conflict – need peace education – written into the curriculum. Have to change the mind set – diversion of military budgets.

From Jordan: Gaps in Labour Law – not covering women in agriculture, institutions with less than 5 employees. Need to protect all workers, then good for women. Women more involved in political life. A woman won as head in a Bedouin county. Until 1996, no woman as judges – now have 4. Wearing the veil – an option. Crimes against women, honour killing – Jordan fought against it, and looked for a solution. Amended Penal Code. Established first shelter. Jordan just signed on to CEDAW.

From Saudi Arabia: Holy Koran gave rights to Islam women long before western women. Can hold property. Education available for all women. Saudi Arabia blamed for September 11<sup>th</sup> – the US misrepresented Saudi women too. Actually 40,000 businesses owned by Saudi women. Saudi diplomats – head of UNDP is a woman. Don't judge by western standards. 60% of women in Universities are women (Princess from Saudi Arabia)

Message – important to hear the stories from grassroots women – not from CNN

Building momentum – women taking charge of our experiences in face of militarism. Changes to present world order. Taking demands to the UN. The idea of a circle – positive energy. Tell the truth – we are not crazy – the system is crazy. (Gloria Steinam on the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women)

Climate Change – doesn't affect women and men the same. Poorest countries paying for climate change that they didn't cause.

80% of agriculture in Africa done by women. Land being usurped for biofuels and hydroelectric production. Privatization of essential public services after war and climate disasters. Using war and climate change as a market. Genetically modified foods need more water. Diversion of land for growing biofuels.

Trafficking – Studies of men who buy sex. Harms women even if legalized. Look at TIP report – rates every country according to trafficking in persons (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/>)

Trafficking – Transnational problem – look at it like Drugs. Supply and demand – distribution. Not much study or work on the demand side. Do have strong laws against trafficking in all countries. Need to create ways to uncover victims and strong enforcement. Swedish law – penalizing the patron.

One new bad trend – male preference for boys – children in India and China. Know 500,000 girl children aborted a year. 1,000 boys to 700/750 girls. Beginning to see a huge wave of Indian boys – trafficking in boys, servitude, and utter despair of girls. 50 million more boys than girls in China.

American men perpetuate violence – socializing of boys – less value on girls. Insult to men to have female characteristics. Men socialized to believe women are property. Taught to objectify women. Commercialization of sexual exploitation. Men must be invited into conversation about sexual exploitation of women. Men value words from other men – must speak out.

Effect of speaking out – see stop trafficking New York - New York state anti-trafficking coalition celebrates passage of strong anti-trafficking law in New York (<http://www.stophumantraffickingny.org/>)

Check out the yellow pages in your home town – escort services, pictures of children, “asian flowers – girls no older than 10”; cell phone numbers; young girls 24/7.

Prostitution is renting an organ for 10 minutes. Paid rape.



Watch for the Scotland Country Review – expected out in a month. What has been the most effective deterrent for men involved in prostitution? Educational programs are the least effective, Sex offender registry more effective.

Effect of war and trafficking. 3.2 million people in Iraq are displaced. Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Gender based violence, abuse of girls – young girls disappearing. Victims of trafficking for sexual purposes. Women taken with strife, and not accepted back in homes. 15% of widows drawn into prostitution. Temporary marriages – control in men's hands.

Indicators of Violence. How do we define? Institutional violence against women – judges and legal systems. One woman killed every 6 days by her partner in Italy. Psychological and economic violence – we have to study more.

Climate Change – climate mitigation and climate adaptation – impact on women. 90% of people killed in Bangladesh were women. Disasters – women's social and economic rights linked. Empowerment of women a factor in risk reduction.

Climate change and gender alliance – series of disasters – hand over responsibilities to private companies. With Carbon Market – continuing past behaviours. Private corporations in the business of making a profit. We cannot continue the way we have in the past – Cut emissions if we want to survive.

Gender – Poverty – Climate Change – all three are linked.

Ending wars does not mean ending violence against women.

Defending Human Rights Defenders. Resistance to state violence. Stories of women Human Rights Defenders, or men defending women's rights and LGBT. 90 organizations part of network. "A Guidebook on Women Human Rights Defenders is aimed to help women human rights defenders name the specific risks, violations and constraints they face in their work"  
<http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/>

Aid effectiveness – women's organizations working to reform the process. Work of WIDE <http://www.wide-network.org/>

Gender Accountability: what/how to make demands? Transnational accountability. How do we build networks, and how do we get heard? How do we set the agenda? Know international laws and instruments. What about our responsibility. Instruments place responsibilities on states – eg. VAW. Laws on domestic violence – most not followed. Look at trade – effects of privatization on women. Need information. Come up with strategy "gender mainstreaming, not malestreaming"

Gender budget – largest single source for gender equality. Have a national plan, otherwise policy no good – budget to support gender justice. Key function is to have gender responsive budget. Experiences of countries like Nigeria. Not enough multisector collaboration. Need accountability and transparency. If system not in place, people will steal. (First woman governor in a Nigerian State)

Lack of education most important violation – Iraqi women victimized by Regime – must get rid of tribal taboos.

Security Sector Reform (SSR): Gender mapping on INSTRAW web site <http://www.un-instraw.org/> (gender training; migration and remittances; political participation) Local ownership very important in success. Sustained dialogue – women's groups consulted. Concept of security different as you move from one setting to another.

CBMS – Community Based Monitoring System – a tool for poverty reduction 14 core indicators. (IDRC)

Role of UNIFEM – Reinforce what NGOs do. (Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM)

All senior officials at the UN to declare financial commitments now. New Secretary General set to control the hanky panky, such as the UN Oil for Food program (Newton R. Bowles, age 91 and senior policy advisor)

Gender and Taxation Project. In 8 countries. Issue – different notions of fairness. Substantive equality – vertical equity and ability to pay. Analysis of VAT, and excise taxes, income taxes. Local level taxation. Disconnect between budget and what is allocated and spent.

Peoples Budget Coalition in South Africa – progressive budgeting.

On Swedish government's web site – foot print of men and of women. (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/574/a/67273>)

## **Rosemary Mallory's comments re New York and the CSW UN (Feb/March 2008)**

It was a privilege and a pleasure to attend the UNCSW meeting in New York as part of the NCWC delegation. Although I had visited the UN in New York as a tourist, this was the first in the NGO capacity.

A lucky personal decision was to arrive a day early to allow unwinding time from the flight across the continent from Vancouver. Shortly after the plane arrived in New York, snow closed the New York airports for several hours.

The driver of the taxi to the hotel explained that New York cab drivers were very careful to avoid getting traffic tickets, not just because of the fine, but, a second ticket or six points would result in suspension of their license to operate for a week. Ten points meant a year.

Fortunately, the four NCWC members were booked at the same hotel, within walking distance of the UN. As the first to arrive, I thought I'd jump the gun and register for the CSW at the first opportunity. Following a good night's sleep, a brisk walk through the snow and slush brought me to the visitor's entrance to the UN building. I went through the routine security check, and got in line with many others to have a picture taken for a delegate's pass. It was noon on Friday. It took four hours to reach the front of the line and I finally got my pass after 4 p.m. The intervening time was made interesting by the people in line. By good fortune, I stood next to a young man (the only man) who edits one of the international newsletters on Grassroots and Huairou. Several young people stopped by to chat. I met three of the International Presidents of Five-O: ICW, IFUW, Business and Professional; and an executive member of I Soroptimists. There were women from every part of the globe, including several who had attended ICW meetings in Perth and Kiev. With some of the women scheduled to be speakers at the sessions, there was an exchange of notices and business cards. Since no one could avoid the line-up, most people tried to make the most of it. Demonstrations are prohibited in the UN building, but, when a second photographer finally arrived, he was greeted with a cheer.

At some point during the week of many meetings, I joined tourists on a tour of the UN building. This was most informative and highly enjoyable. Since the number in the tour group was limited, there was good opportunity to ask questions and examine some of the magnificent gifts to the U.N. One of the most outstanding was the tile fresco of Norman Rockwell's Golden Rule.

The Canadian NGOs met each day to work on policy. National Council of Women members can be justly proud of the contributions of Mary Scott, Muriel Smith, and former youth convener and VP Rashmi Bhat.

Rosemary Mallory