



Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the 53rd meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women

March 2nd to March 13th, 2009

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

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Report on the 53rd meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

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Introduction:

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from March 2nd to March 13th, 2009. As NCWC has ECOSOC¹ status at the UN, we are able to sponsor delegates to the CSW meetings. 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 students from the University of Western Ontario (Richard Ivey School of Business); McGill University and a PhD student from the University of Waterloo. Muriel Smith and I shared an apartment with Ardith Toodgood, the past President of the Canadian Federation of University Women, a Canadian organization that also has ECOSOC status.

There was representation from other national Councils of Women, the International Council of Women (ICW), and also several NCWC Federates. ICW sponsored a workshop “HIV and AIDS caregivers” on March 3, and Anamah Tan (President of ICW) participated on a Panel on Climate Change that I attended. Cosima Schenk-Monfrini, First Vice President of ICW supported our workshops.

NCWC was pleased to sponsor 3 Workshops as part of the Parallel Events:

- “Insite: Impact of Canada's safe injection on HIV transmission and treatment” on March 2nd
- “Efforts by Canadian organization to help reduce the social impact of HIV/AIDS” on March 12th
- And “The role of Shariah in promoting women's rights” on March 10th.

All NCWC workshops were well organized, and the students did an excellent job in their research, organization and presentation. Many thanks to Rashmi Bhat for the idea, and the work she did with the students.

There were approximately 2,000 representatives attending the CSW, representing over 700 NGOs.

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

¹ The first time that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) took a role in formal UN deliberations was through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946. NCWC received “special” ECOSOC status in 1997.

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 was his last year as Chair of the Bureau and he has served the NGOs faithfully. This year, a particular highlight for me, was spending time with women to discuss peace in the Middle East, and gaining a better understanding of the role of Shariah in Islamic countries.

It should be noted that the daily briefings by the Official Canadian Delegation were appreciated by all the Canadian NGOs. The Hon. Helena Guergis, the Canadian Minister Responsible for the Status of Women gave a statement on behalf of Canada on March 5th. Her paper is accessible at <http://tinyurl.com/cen62t>. It was following that statement that many NGOs gathered at the gates of the UN to issue a press release, and the draft of a letter going to the CSW, which NCWC signed on to. (see appendix “Notice of Forthcoming Communication”)

The Expert Panel Discussions were a particular highlight this year, with one including Marilyn Waring, a New Zealand Economist who first introduced many of us to the concept of women’s unpaid work. Also the Expert Panel on the Emerging Issue of The Gender Perspectives of the Financial Crisis was well done. These papers are all available at the Division on the Status of Women web site <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

Another highlight was the change in tone because of the recent American election and President Obama. The workshop “We’re Back!”, sponsored by several American NGO’s was quite energetic. Dr. Susan Rice (The American Ambassador to the UN) presented at one of the Panels and was well received. Many of the American NGOs are working to urge a 5th World Conference on Women. This World Conference would not be to review the Beijing Platform for Action, but to assess its implementation.

The Secretary General, Ban ki Moon spoke at the International Women’s Day event, on March 5th. The theme was “Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls”, and tied in with the Secretary-General’s wider campaign against gender-based violence. Launched in 2008, “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” will run through 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

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 a paper prepared by the students from McGill University.

Purpose and Accomplishments:

The principal output of the Commission on the Status of Women is the **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.

This year, the theme was “**The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS**”. The Advanced Unedited Agreed Conclusions on this theme are posted on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/ctmtrj>. This 10 page document, adopted by the Commission, is brought to the attention of the General Assembly. There is much that is in the document that the NGOs worked to see included. The following is the News Release issued by the Department of Public Information:

Women’s Commission Ends Session, Calls For Shared Responsibility For Caregiving Between Men, Women In Context Of HIV/AIDs, Reducing Care Burden On Households

- Approves Several Texts, Including on Working Group on Communications,
- Assistance to Palestinian Women,
- Commission Themes for 2010-2014 Period

To a burst of applause, the Commission on the Status of Women concluded its fifty-third session this evening with the adoption of hard-won agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS -- its priority theme -- and several resolutions on women’s empowerment. The principal output of the Commission on the Status of Women is the agreed conclusions on priority themes set for each year. They contain an analysis of the priority theme and 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 protracted debate over those conclusions, delegations lamented that they made no reference to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, or more generally to women living under occupation. Some said they needed more

time to review the document, as there was only one person in their delegation. Others pointed out that their concerns had not been taken into account at all.

Nevertheless, consensus was reached and the Commission, in the agreed conclusions, urged Governments, along with the United Nations, civil society and the private sector, among others, to intensify efforts to fully implement the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, a landmark agenda for removing obstacles to women's participation in all spheres of public and private life. It also urged them to mainstream gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes, and incorporate a gender-responsive budgeting process across all policy areas.

On the specific issue of caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, the conclusions called for scaling up efforts significantly to achieve universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. They recognized the increased feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the need to review existing HIV/AIDS policies to ensure that they reduce women's vulnerability to the disease. They also highlighted the need to improve — and promote — the accessibility of quality public health-care services, and design programmes that encourage men's responsibility for home-based care.

In other areas, the conclusions called on Governments to incorporate the value and cost of unpaid work to society in policies, strategies and budgets across relevant sectors; ensure that women and men have access to maternity and paternity leave; increase access to public infrastructure, such as transportation, to reduce the care burden on households; develop strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes; collect sex-disaggregated data to inform policymaking; adopt measures to overcome the negative impacts of the economic and financial crisis; and allocate financial resources at the international level for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, among other instruments.

Adopting a draft resolution on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, the Commission urged Governments to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment, strengthen their economic independence and inheritance and property rights, promote their human rights and strengthen health care and services, including for sexual and reproductive health, to better protect them from HIV infection. It also urged Governments and all relevant stakeholders to help women better access HIV prevention and treatment, and care for others infected with the disease, while addressing the situation of girls forced to drop out of school to care as a result.

Further to that text, Governments were urged to strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls as an integral part of national HIV/AIDS response, institute and enforce laws to protect them from early and forced marriage and marital rape, and ensure their sustained access to HIV/AIDS treatment. Governments were called upon to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in

relation to HIV/AIDS, to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and testing into other health services and to rapidly scale up treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Governments and the international donor community were also called upon to ensure adequate funding for national HIV/AIDS programmes.

At the same time, the Commission requested that the Secretariat, co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other United Nations agencies responding to the pandemic to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations. It encouraged the design and implementation of programmes, including in awareness-raising, to encourage and enable men to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour.

In other action, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council adopt various resolutions, one of which focused on Palestinian women. Approved by a recorded vote of 30 in favour to 3 against (Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States), with 8 abstentions (Germany, Belgium, Cameroon, Croatia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden), the text urged the international community to give special attention to the human rights of Palestinian women and girls, and intensify work to improve their conditions. It called for the urgent provision assistance to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis. Canada is not a member of the Commission and did not have a vote.

Speaking in general statement before the vote, the representative of Israel said the draft conveniently omitted all references to “ Hamas ” and “ terrorists ”.

Without incorporating the reality of Palestinian terrorism, the draft was inadequate and misleading, and only prolonged women’s suffering on all sides. The resolution had no place in the Commission, and she called on members to reject “ this annual ritual ”.

Speaking after the vote, the representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine said the text was relevant to the principles of the Commission, and it was the right of any delegation to bring issues to the body.

Palestinian women had lived under occupation for nearly four decades, and they merited the Commission’s consideration. She looked forward to the day when such resolutions did not have to be put forward. Until that time, her delegation would continue to look to the United Nations as the protector of those most in need.

Some other delegates objected to the resolution, saying that country-specific matters should not be taken up by the Commission, as they fell outside its purview.

The Commission approved without a vote as orally revised a resolution on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, by which it recommended that the Economic and Social Council stress the importance of voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute and call for the diversification of funding resources.

Also without a vote, the Commission approved an orally revised resolution of Vice-Chairperson Julio Peralta of Paraguay, which outlined the themes for the Commission's 2010-2014 period. At its fifty-fourth session in 2010, it would review implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

In another text approved without a vote, the Commission decided to recommend, through the Economic and Social Council, that the General Assembly hold a commemorative meeting during the Commission's session in March 2010 to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing documents.

By a further text, the Commission decided to begin its fifty-fourth session by appointing members of its Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period, in order to make communications procedures more efficient and effective.

In keeping with an earlier decision (2002/235) to appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group for the next session to enable the issuance of their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission, the Commission earlier today named Hoh Sang-Wook (Asian States Group), to the Working Group on Communications for the fifty-fourth session. It decided that the appointment of the Group's remaining members would be deferred to the fifty-fourth session next year. The Commission also took note of the Working Group's report and decided to include it in its report.

In other matters, the Commission took note of the Moderator's summary of the high-level round table on "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS".

It also took note of summaries of its five panel discussions, namely: "key policy initiatives on equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS"; "capacity-building for mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes to support the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in the context of HIV/AIDS"; "the gender perspectives of the financial crisis"; "equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all

levels”; and “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health: a gender perspective”.

The Chairperson noted that the Commission had held a lively and positive joint panel with the Statistical Commission on indicators on violence against women. He said important work had already been undertaken on that topic. An expert group meeting had been organized last October and a report had been made available. He welcomed the intention of the Statistical Commission to pursue that work further and its decision to set up a working group on indicators on violence against women, in response to General Assembly resolutions 61/143 (2006) and 62/133 (2007), on intensifying efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. In that regard, he read out a letter from Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General of Statistics of South Africa, who also served as the Chairperson of Statistical Commission.

Further, the Commission took note of the several reports of the Secretary-General, including on equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS; on proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the period 2010-2014 of the Commission on the Status of Women; on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS; and on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It also took note of the report transmitted through a note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) concerning the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women, as well as a note of the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health.

Please Note:

Photos from the CSW are posted at <http://tinyurl.com/c8y2la>

APPENDICES

Resources:

Ms. Magazine, Special Inaugural Issue, Winter 2009. Photo of President Obama with a T-Shirt reading “This is what a FEMINIST looks like”.

Confronting Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations, International Women’s Tribune Centre 2009

Gender Equality and Aid Effectiveness: Key Messages and Priority Actions. A number of papers, produced by EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace, a joint programme of the European Commission (EC), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC/ILO)

Mapping Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality – Global Findings. 2008.
www.unifem.org & www.gendermatters.eu

Gender Equality as Smart Economics – A World Bank Group Action Plan. Includes an 8 minute video. See www.worldbank.org/gender

Equality of Women: Where do We Stand on Millennium Development Goal 3? The World Bank 2009

Books on Women and Development, Women, Ink. 2006

Assessing Health Rights of Women Women’s Human Rights See www.aimforhumanrights.org

The Baha’i Question – Cultural Cleansing in Iran, September 2008

Bridging the Gap: Financing Gender Equality, UNIFEM & NGLS 2008

Stop the Demand for Trafficking in Women and Children UNANIMA International www.unanima-international.org

Financing Healthier Lives: Empowering Women Through Integration of Micorofinance and Health Education UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) Part of the Microcredit Summit Campaign 2008

The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, Organized DAW (Division for the Advancement of Women) October, 2008

Linkages: Evidence Review and Recommendations. Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP, IPPF, UCSF

Who We Are, UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

Migration: Migrants Rights, A Special Issue July 2008, International Organization for Migration

The Fourth Wave, Violence, Gender, Culture and HIV in the 21st Century, Overview and Chapter Abstracts from the Forthcoming UNESCO/SSRC book

Supporting the educational needs of HIV-positive learners, lessons from Namibia and Tanzania, UNESCO December 2008

iKNOWpolitics, International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics. Partnership of UN agencies and NGOs. www.iKNOWpolitics.org

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative Regional Updates, UNICEF, 2007

The State of the World's Children, 2009 Maternal and Newborn Health, UNICEF Executive Summary

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol

Linking Poverty Reduction and Water Management PEP, Poverty Environment Partnership,

Empowered and Equal, Gender Equality Strategy 2008-2011, UNDP

Minorities WIZO's Activities Among Minority Communities in Israel. Women, Making it All Possible, Women's International Zionist Organization for an Improved Israeli Society

The Economic Participation of Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Why does it Matter World Bank, December 2008`

UNIFEM, Annual Report 2007-2008

Hand out on Solar Cookers

Newsletter UNITE to End Violence Against Women.

Global Private Sector Leaders, An Initiative of the World Bank Group Gender Action Plan 2008

Daily Links, Making Care Work Count - A new daily publication at the CSW, March 3,4,5,6, and 9

With a CD: Digital Stories for Transformation, I have listened, I have heard, 2006, womensnet.org.za

CD: Women Go Global – 1995-2000 The UN and the International Women’s Movement – An Interactive, Multimedia CD ROM

CD: Why Gender Matters, Tutorial for Water Managers. The intention is to demonstrate how a gender approach makes water management more effective. UNDP & Gender and Water Alliance November 2006

CD: Gender and Water Management. Resource Guide UNDP & Water Alliance November 2006 Also, Fast Facts on Adaptive Water Governance

2 CDs: Because I Am A Girl: The State of the World’s Girls 2008, Special Focus: In the Shadow of War Produced by Plan, UK, 2 minute video, and pdf Report <http://www.plan-uk.org/becauseiamagirl/theissues/> ALSO Print publication Because I am a Girl

CD: CEDAW 25 Years, 1982-2007 – produced by DAW

CD: Gender and Agriculture, Agriculture and Rural Development, The World Bank. Also hand out – about the Gender in Agriculture Source Book (World Bank)

CD: Work and Family, Training Package on Work and Family, ILO

Pamphlet: US Federation for Middle East Peace

Workshops Attended

March 1 **NGO Consultation Day** Panel Discussion on the Priority Theme, included Ms Sylvia Hordosch, Mr Babana Khumalo, Ms Rosy Weiss, and Ms Nazneed Damji. Also, NGOs presented on Opportunities for Participation and Challenges, GEAR, NGO Form on Beijing +15.

March 2nd **Interactive Expert Panel** Key policy initiatives on equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in the context of HIV/AIDs. Marilyn Waring, AUT University, New Zealand; Shahra Razavi, UN Research Institute for Social Development; Mr. Linden Lewis (Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Bucknell University, Pennsylvania, USA); Mr. Joseph Aimé Bidiga (Head of the Department of Health of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council to Combat HIV/AIDS, Burkina Faso); Ms. Patricia Espinosa Torres (Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Mexico). The papers are available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm>

March 2 **Because I Am A Girl**, In the Shadow of War. “During such times everything freezes, no education, no drinking water, no electricity, food shortages, no shelter.” Girl, 17, Ghana

March 2 **The U.S. is Back!** We are back from a historic and “ground shifting inauguration” back on the ground and on the Internet to connect your agendas to each other and to women globally

March 3 **Global Food Crises: Gender, food security and agriculture** (presented on Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook, and the gender impact of the global food price crisis.

March 3 **Woman of Distinction Award** Ms Rachel N. Mayanja, Assistant Secretary General, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

March 3 **Call to Action on Gender and Climate Change**. Proposed by Global Gender and Climate Alliance (a group of 25 UN agencies and international civil society organizations working together to ensure that climate change policies, decision-making processes and initiatives at all levels are gender responsive.

March 4 **Equal Opportunity in Decision-Making: Attainable at Last?** Panel Discussion including Mary Purcell (co founder of UNICEF Working Group on Girls); Dan Seymour, UNICEF Chief of the Gender Rights Unit, and Jane Hodges, ILO. Moderated by Phyllis Scott, IFUW Vice President

March 4 **The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Men’s Responsibility: Ending Demand for Sex Trafficking**, featuring Victor Malarek. Very passionate presentation against legalizing prostitution – not in women’s best interests.

March 5 **International Women's Day at the UN**. Address by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, and HE Mrs. Aja Isatou Njie Saidy, VP and Secretary of State for Women's Affairs of the Republic of Gambie; HE Ms Maria del Rosio Garcia Gaytan, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico, and HE Ms Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Status of Women, Australia. There were other panels and the launch of the Secretary General's Database on Violence Against Women – see more at <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action>

March 5 **“Afghan Women Speak: Eight Years Later, Challenges and Hopes.”** With Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM Deputy Executive Director as moderator. Dr. Susan Rice spoke (US Ambassador to the UN), plus H.E. Mr. Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, Suraya Pakzad, Founder, Voice of Women Organization, Wazhma Frogh, Country Director, Global Rights – Afghanistan and Najia Zewari, Gender and Justice Unit Manager, UNIFEM –Afghanistan

March 8 **An Interfaith Celebration in Story and Song** for International Women's Day – a very moving service.

March 9 **Financial Crisis and its impact on development** – the work of the Bretton Woods Institutions, with Mr. Ranjit Teja, Mr. Dominique Desruelle, and Mr. Jeffrey Lewis.

March 10 **AIM for Human Rights**, Achieving the Human Rights of Women using a practical tool

March 12 **Interactive Expert Panel “Gender perspectives on Global Public Health: Implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”** This was an excellent panel and presentations were well done. The session was moderated by Olivier Belle, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women. The President of the Economic and Social Council, Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, made an opening address. The panelists included: Anjana Bhushan, Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hernan Montenegro, Pan American Health Organization, WHO; and Dr. Lynn Collins, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

March 12, **US Federation for Middle East Peace**, co sponsor, International Council of Women – Muslim, Christian and Jewish women share the vision of understanding, tolerance and peace.

Caucuses attended: Coordinating Caucus, Canadian Caucus, Linkages Caucus

Quotes from my notes:

“Gender Architecture is part of the System Wide Coherence” – NGO consultation

“How can civil society be engaged – need innovative ways” – Grey Panthers. We are concerned because it is the older women who are the caregivers.

Work not valued in economic terms. Women spend twice as much time as men in unpaid work. How do we redistribute unpaid work?

Men are part of the problem and part of the solution

There is a connection between violence and caregiving.

90% of caregiving is in the home. 25% done by women over 60.

Look at women, and children headed households. Lives of widows.

Must demand gender sensitive responses.

Economic crisis – need a new paradigm. Don't invest in failed strategies. People based economy. See women as an antidote to the current crisis.

300,000 children participating in armed conflict – where are the girls? Having a gun gives girls more power. Marriage better than not married – protection against violence. Look at DPR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) from girls perspective.

Need 30 buckets of water for each HIV/AIDS patient a day.

Armies of caregivers in Africa – homebased caregivers. Organized.

All women peacekeeping unit in Liberia.

Connection between caregiving and sexual violence. Need to value the caregiver. Good care – need resources – gloves, water, etc.

Food crisis affecting men and women differently.

2/3rds of rural households are net buyers of food.

Need short term interventions – food for work programs – give extra supplies to girls to take home from school.

Prostitution is not “Sex Work”. Victor Malorik

How do we get gender ministers (ministers responsible for the Status of Women) to connect with Environment Ministers?

How do we get off the Happy Hooker Band Wagon??

Correlation between HIV/AIDs and trafficking younger girls – who are more likely to catch HIV/AIDs

Age is a state of mind.

Every woman and child has a right to live a life free of violence.

2 million workers in the US are victims of work place violence. 40% of the violence against women occurs while women are working.

Struggle for security over riding everything – Afghan Women’s Network. Negotiating with those who have been part of the problem. Constitution enshrines women’s rights – won’t go back.

One Million Signatures Campaign in Iran like a river that can’t be stopped. Iranian women’s rights activists are fighting gender apartheid through the “One Million Signatures” campaign, which aims to collect one million signatures to demand an end to discriminatory laws against women. At present, men have the sole right to divorce and except in special cases, the right to custody of children. One man’s testimony equals that of two women. And certain positions, such as that of a judge, are closed to women. The campaign is a continuation of Iranian women’s century-long struggle for gender equality.

22 countries face acute financial needs. Predict 44 million into malnutrition. Less money from remittances.

Women suffering in Iraq. 75% are widows. No government aid. 30% of their children can’t go to school. Security forces feared. Women no dignity. Education on human rights needed to overcome fear.

Need a health system that is person centered, not illness centered.

Sexual and reproductive health linked to poverty and gender equality.

Concern re post menopausal women and HIV/AIDs, and STDs – growing problem.

Effects of migration on health professions.

McGill Law Women's Caucus

Compilation of Notes on the 53rd Session of the UN CSW

Introductory Note: Most of us were only able to attend the CSW on March 2nd and 3rd thus the majority of our notes are from these days. Overall, everyone thought it was an excellent experience, but that it would be best to go for at least three days if possible, in order to get the most out of the many interesting sessions. Here is an excerpt of an article submitted to our law school paper, the Quid, followed by the notes that we took at the sessions we attended.

Women's Caucus Trip to the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Right after reading week over the first week of March, eleven McGill Law Women's Caucus members had the chance to attend the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York City. This opportunity is part of an annual program of the Women's Caucus which pairs students with NGOs so that they may attend the commission, which is not open to the public. As guests of their ECOSOC-accredited NGO, the program allows for students to be the "eyes and ears" of the organization with which they are paired, given that not all of the NGOs send their representatives to the commission each year.

Comme tous les ans, les étudiantes ont été jumelées avec diverses ONG comme Equitas, Droits et Démocratie, la Fédération canadienne des femmes diplômées des universités, la Voix des femmes (VOW) ainsi que le Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida. Le thème de la commission en cette cinquante-troisième session était le partage des responsabilités entre les femmes et les hommes, en particulier des soins dispensés dans le contexte du VIH/sida. Chaque étudiante a pris des notes aux sessions auxquelles elles ont pu assister pour ensuite mettre toutes les notes ensemble pour soumettre aux ONG avec lesquelles elles ont été jumelées.

**American Psychological Association,
Parallel Event for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of
Women**

**Valuing the Caregiver: The Emotional and Physical Stress of Caregiving:
HIV/AIDS**

**Monday, March 2, 2009
10-11:45am, Church Centre
11th fl**

Moderators:

Deanna Chitayat, Ph.D.

American Psychological Association; Vice Chair, NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS (CONGO)

Alan Saunders,

Chair NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS (CONGO), NGO Universal Peace Federation

- millions of AIDS patients need intensive and long-term care
- this care is a full time occupation
- the body, mind and finances of caregivers is stressed
- this stress can lead to:
 - fatigue
 - mental problems
 - vulnerability to illness
 - cessation of schooling
 - Isolation
 - disconnection from communities/work

Speaker:

Frank Alapini, MD,

Director AIDS Clinic, Benin, Africa

- ("Valuing the medical professional's caregiving)
- In Benin, HIV/AIDS is highly stigmatized
- People do not speak openly about being affected by it—whether about one's own illness or about a family/community member'
- Dr. Alapini practiced in a general hospital/clinic before becoming the director of a clinic focused on care for those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and in need of palliative care.
- While the clinic was intended for the treatment of those with HIV/AIDS and cancer as well as those in need of palliative care, the clinic was not frequented by people except in advanced stages of AIDS.
- For example, in order to continue following up with 'long-time' patients who suffered from a range of illnesses from the general clinic at which he had practiced, Dr. Alapini transferred the patients to his new place of work. However, few (if any) of these patients came for their appointments, despite Dr. Alapini being familiar with their history and treatment.

- The clinic became used nearly exclusively by those in later stages of HIV/AIDS.
- Some HIV/AIDS patients, once treated and feeling better, did not come to follow-up appointments. They only came back to the clinic when feeling unwell again.
- The patients were not varied despite the clinic's mandate. Nurses and doctors were taxed with the same strenuous duties and obligations throughout their work day, without change to provide relief.
- Dr. Alapini observed changes in himself within 3 weeks of moving to the clinic:
 - Difficulty sleeping
 - Fatigue, both mental and physical
 - Diminishment of mental agility
 - Loss of appetite
- Dr. Alapini observed these and other symptom in his colleagues.
- Dr. Alapini's question is:
 - how to assist the caregivers, be they familial or trained medical staff?
- The stress is real and affects the quality of the care that patients receive.

Speaker:

Martha Nelson, Professional Caregiver

Lower East side of Manhattan, New York, United States of America

- Ms Nelson spoke of her experiences in the Lower East side in which there was a general misunderstanding of the nature and communicability of HIV/AIDS and the fear following from this lack of understanding.
- Ms Nelson often had to answer questions about how the illness is transmitted (e.g. My brother who has HIV/AIDS uses my toothbrush, will I contract HIV/AIDS? I ate the leftovers on my nephew's plate, will I get sick?)
- Patients and their families frequently asked how to cope with the illness, how to inform other family members, etc.
- Ms. Nelson often encountered situations where patients refused or forgot to take their medication. (Question to self: why do they refuse to take their medication?)
- (See notes below on Speaker Dr. Krauss's as Ms Nelson is a caregiver and working in the project described by Dr. Krauss.)

Speaker:

Rose Chhabra, Psy.D.,

Project Director, India, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

- Could not make it to the event due to the inclement weather.

Speaker:

Beatrice Krauss, Ph.D.,

Hunter College Centre for Community and Urban Health

- Dr. Krauss spoke of a HIV/AIDS model program on prevention, piloted the Lower East side of Manhattan, New York that has engendered many similar projects around the globe.
- (The Lower East side of Manhattan has the highest incident of HIV/AIDS in New York City)
- The HIV/AIDS problem is not only one of prevention. Discussion of the stigma and role of the family/caregiver is equally needed in order to cope well with the situation.
- The initial project started in the Lower East side of Manhattan targets children aged 10-13 years that are caregivers. For these children,
 - 72% had extended family that was infected
 - 15% had an immediate (one-removed) family member that was infected
 - 4% had a neighbour that was infected
- A UK study (which?) found that:
 - Children as young as 8 years are providing care. They have little respite and their own health and education is detrimentally affected
 - Children, despite their best intentions and desires, are social awkward in situations of caregiving as they don't understand what's need. Also, there is a fear of contracting the illness, HIV/AIDS. They are, then, in tension between wanting to do the "right" thing and wanting to "avoid" getting sick themselves.
- A family that has only one member infected with HIV is as knowledgeable (or 'unknowledgeable') about the illness.
- There is a need for a public to be informed about infectious diseases in general:
 - Families don't deal with HIV problems alone. Often, they are coping with other communicable diseases.
 - There is a needed for universal precautions and general understanding of coping strategies.
- The project was designed to be interactive amongst attendees and not one of top-down teaching only.
- Aside for teaching about how the disease spreads, the project sessions used a lot of picture stories to which attendees commented.
- These picture stories also provided attendees a time to express their emotions, frustrations, and understanding of situations.
 - In these pictures, the images of persons is gender neutral and characters are given gender neutral names in order to acclimatize attendees to the fact that caregivers can be anybody—man or woman.
 - The strategy is not only that anyone can be a caregiver.
 - Young heterosexual women are currently being infected faster than men. These women often already have children. Fathers, thus, will increasingly become single parents as infected mothers pass away. Fathers need to be able to cope with an ill partner and to also care for their children.

- These situations are similar to the ones Ms Nelson mentioned---fear of contracting the illness through shared utensil, toothbrush, etc.
- These stories also provided the teachers an opportunity to describe "alternative" endings, and thereby inform the attendees of coping strategies and precautionary methods.
- When the project is brought to other countries, the pictures and tools are adapted to suite the native culture.

Member of the audience:

Dieudonne Mayambi Khula, Nurse (mayambi@gmail.com)

Congo

- Congo, like Benin, is a country in which having HIV/AIDS is highly stigmatized and people do not speak openly about having it or being affected by it.
- Mr. Khula recounted the story of a Congolese family caregiver of an HIV/AIDS patient he had attended to.
- The woman in this example was the only (familial) caregiver of an HIV/AIDS patient.
- When her husband died, the woman was accused by her mother-in-law of having killed her son in order to seize his property/income.
- No other family member was aware of husband's illness or that the woman had been the sole caregiver.
- This case typifies the vulnerable situation faced of caregivers:
 - During the period of caregiving, caregivers have little support from the rest of the family and friends. There is little to no alleviation---be it financial, social, emotional, physical or other, of the burden the caregivers carry.
 - After the patient's death, the suffering of caregivers continues. Their stress, rather than being alleviated, continues: caregivers continue to be in a weak financial situation and they are marginalized by family. In short, far from getting the 'recovery' period needed, they continue to be affected without relief.

Member of the audience:

Vivien Kityo, Trustee of Mothers' Union (kityovivian@yahoo.co.uk)

Mother's Union: Christian Care for families, Kampala, Uganda

- www.mothersunion.org
- Uganda, unlike Congo and Benin, is a country in which the HIV/AIDS problem is openly discussed
- HIV/AIDS is not stigmatized
- Mother's union supports gender equality within the family; aims to promote and support equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and wider community.
- It also aims to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in various settings, from schools to prisons. This is an effort of generally health education

- The Mothers' Union is a grassroots organization that runs community-based initiatives that pushes for governments to facilitate wider development of gender equality—culturally and institutionally.
- Some of their programmes are:

Literacy & Development Programme:

- Since 2000, the Mother's Union Literacy and Development Programme has been teaching numeracy and literacy skills and empowering learners to address challenges within their families and communities, especially gender inequalities and domestic violence.
- Through the programme, the following are now literate:
 - 26 000 people (75% of whom are women) in Burundi;
 - Over 1000 people in Malawi; and
 - 1800 people in Sudan.
- The learners, predominantly female, have gained many skills, plus more responsibility in household and financial decision making and in community leadership.
- Participants have said that the programme has enabled the couples to understand each other, to solve problems together. Women participants have said that, prior to taking participating in the programme, women would be blamed for many things/problems, but that this practice is no more. Women have become empowered to make decisions with the men.

Family Life Programme:

- The Mother's Union Family Life Programme, established in 2004, raises awareness of the transmission, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS through drama and song.
- Those living with HIV/AIDS are supported by trained home-based carers who in turn are supported by trained Mother's Union workers.
- Family and community members caring for children orphaned by AIDS also receive support from home-based carers, plus education on growing food, medicinal plants and income generating activities
- Many of the home-based carers are male.

Conclusion and comments from Q&A:

- How to help caregivers?
- The stress of caregivers can include:
 - Social stigmatization
 - Financial difficulty
 - Mental stress
 - Emotional stress
 - Physical stress
- How to help caregivers?
 - If the patient is deceased:
 - treat the caregiver as you would those affected by post-traumatic stress disorder.
 - This treatment should be delayed a bit after the death so that the caregiver not 'relive' his/her experience
 - Caregivers have often become social isolated. They need to be reintegrated back into the community. This may

mean that they need to develop a marketable skill in order to become gainfully employed, may need assistance to become financial independent. Both of these would boost caregivers' self esteem.

- In some cultures, western notions of 'therapy' do not exist. In order to alleviate the stress of caregivers, social-type work might be more conducive and effective than one-on-one talk therapy.
- If the patient is still alive:
 - The caregiver's workload can be alleviated by:
 - Assigning/entrust a single chore to another member of the family/community. (This follows from the idea that not only one person need be responsible for **all** the needs of the patient. Needs include: preparing meals, washing clothes, bathing the patient, cleaning, taking care of children, etc. Distribution of even one of these chores can alleviate the burden on a single caregiver.)
 - Involve children in the community to bring life, laughter and joy to the environment of the ill and the caregiver. Children can help with gardening; provide entertainment with stories and pictures to the ill and the caregiver. The children can also thereby become used to and acclimatized to seeing illness.

The Twin Pandemics: Lessons from Africa

Womankind Worldwide
NGO Session at the UN Church Center
March 2, 2009
10am-12pm

Participants:

- FIDA – Ghana
- Masimanyane – Eastern Cape, South Africa
- Musasa Project – Harare, Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe Womens Lawyers Association - Zimbabwe

Theme:

The twin pandemics: violence against women (VAW) and HIV/AIDS. We need a gendered approach to tackling HIV/AIDS.

Musasa Project:

- Abused women are 50% more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS
- VAW is the least recognized human rights violation
- Gender-based violence is both a cause and a consequence of HIV/AIDS
- Even with knowledge, women cannot protect themselves

- Traditional law and conjugal rights restrict women's ability to protect themselves. The denial of conjugal rights is grounds for divorce. Use of condoms in married relationships is very complex.
- Some other factors:
 - Cultural issues regarding communication about sex
 - Wife inheritance and widow cleansing
 - Pledging of girl child
 - Bride price
 - Girls marrying older men
 - Religion: abused women stay in relationship because divorce is not accepted

FIDA:

- Need formal justice system to improve women's access to inheritance and justice in cases of VAW
- Need to work with traditional leaders and healers
- Women need support and encouragement to take their cases to court and to the police
- Radio programs, film documentaries, role plays can help

Masimanyane:

- CEDAW standard setting document shaped South Africa's Domestic Violence Act
- HIV/AIDS is linked to VAW
- Paralegal Response
- Home-based care Response
- Food Security: need enough food to take ARVs
- Women often fired from jobs and lose homes when HIV+
- Discrimination: people won't disclose their status or go for treatment. Many deaths are preventable, but people fear discrimination
- Responses: life skills education in school to help address gender imbalances; radio programs; youth camps
- Government, civil society, men and women all have role to play in terms of addressing VAW and HIV/AIDS

Zimbabwe Womens Lawyers Association

- women could not afford lawyers, this organization provides free legal aid and education to women. Also lobby and advocate to change laws in Zimbabwe
- National Behavioral Change Policy: Deliberate transmission of HIV was made illegal (criminal offense)
- women usually find out about their status earlier than men (because childbearers) – onus shifts to women but law doesn't really protect them. Women might want treatment more than they want their partners to be held criminally liable.
- Marital rape: criminalized but there are very few cases
- Lobola is still paid: cannot refuse sex
- AIDS levy: 3% tax on income to fight AIDS – hard to see how it comes back to help people. Hospitals in Zimbabwe are not functioning at 100%, it is difficult for women to access treatment
- Inheritance Law: Zimbabwean law defers to traditional law, but law changed to make spouses and children primary beneficiaries of estate. Even this is not sensitive to HIV/AIDS because spouses remarry and then die, leaving children

- with nothing because the new spouse gets the estate. Judicial activism: faced with this problem, judges have granted usufructuary rights to the children.
 - Current context: law and policies mean nothing. Maintenance in kind because Zimbabwean dollar has no value. Need creativity to deal with the current crisis.
 - Domestic Violence Act: lack resources to implement
 - Challenges of culture and religion: marriage laws allow polygamy but AIDS policy encourages one partner. Unregistered customary marriages. Lack political will because of current crisis. How to change a culture that values many wives?
 -
-

UK Women’s National Commission panel-led discussion

Parallel Event for the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Who Cares? The Complexities of gendered caring in modern society

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

12-1pm, Church Centre 12th

fl

Chair:

Baroness Joyce Gould, Women’s National Commission Chair

- Baroness Gould is:
 - a life peer in the House of Lords;
 - Chair of the Government’s Independent Advisory Group for Sexual Health and HIV, making her one of the top health policy-makers in the UK;
 - Chair of the Mary MacArthur Holiday Trust, which provides holidays for women in need;
 - President of Straight Talking, an organization that raises young people’s awareness of the problems associated with teenage parenthood with the aim of reducing the high rates of teenage pregnancy.

Speaker:

Beatrix Campbell

WNC Commissioner, feminist writer and broadcaster

Introduction

- Ms Campbell is:
 - An award-winning journalist with columns often *The Guardian*;
 - Author;
 - Broadcaster;
 - Campaigner; and
 - Playwright.

- Knowledge of gender-quality issues began in the 1970s with the women's movement.
- The British riots of the 1990s lead Bea to increase her knowledge on this area and to analyse crime, gender and the community.
- Ms Campbell challenges the orthodox view that young men's community violence is a function of absent fathers.
- She recently embarked on a project working with young male offender, leading to her development of a radical approach to gender, generation and the organisation of stable communities.

Notes

- Ms Campbell shared her thoughts about set the current state of affairs with respect to women's rights and gender equality in a historical framework.
- Since WWII, UN intervention and protocols have been updated
- The existence of the Commission on the Status of Women has transformed government action.
- Women of today are unlike all preceding generations.
- Today, we are at a period of paradox:
 - UN has become part of the global settled will
- While the age or patriarchy is losing its legitimacy, it is NOT dead.
- Egalitarian legislation since the 1970s has hit a limit.
- Why?
 - There is an underlying presumption that women are evolutionary failures.
 - Women do NOT have to grow into the current regime of public order and power
- The private designation of the family relieves the State of playing a role in changing family dynamics.
- Care, therefore, must be addressed not as a matter of private affairs but as a part of the equality framework.
- The UK as an apparent example:
 - The labour market is in the interest of a male dominated, bread-winner structure
 - The conception is of mothers versus everyone else
 - Mothers have limited time and limited access to money
 - Construction of society as breadwinner versus carer
 - The breadwinner is entirely serviced by the carer/mother
 - The breadwinner is not an effective parent or carer
- Two assumptions in the women's liberation movement:
 1. Men would of good-will and co-operation for a change in society
 2. Institutions would be transformed without institutional resistance.
 - Exemplification of these assumptions:
 - In 1961, the average employed father spent three minutes of quality time with children. Effectively, the father was only a visitor to family life.
 - In 2008, the average employed father spent 16 minutes of quality time with children. He does not read to his kids. His average work week is of 48 hours.
- The relationship of women to the labour market:
 - There is a polarization between:
 - Mothers and others

- Breadwinner and caregiver
- These polarizations have a large emotional cost on women.
 - How to quantify this cost?
- The polarizations exists in a time of increasing social stratification:
 - ½ of young fathers are n prison
 - At any one time, the father of 100 000 children is serving time
 - What is the cost of this on the mothers and other women implicated?
- In the last 100 years, the thought on development was that women would become part of the labour market; that they would take up 'their' share.
- As women entered the labour market, there was a perception that women were moving away from the family.
- Question: Why has there been an increase in prison inmates?
 - Analysis:
 - the 'proletarianised' woman is assumed to be the cause of a decline of masculinity identity.
 - Violence, therefore, is used as a resource for demonstrating influence on the social, political, family scene.
 - Violence has producing dominion.
 - Consider how this compares to the States sole 'legitimate'
- The increase in violence and prison numbers shows what happened when the State does not take the side of women and true egalitarian development.
- The State is rarely willing to clearly be in line and in support of women. Developments are more as a reaction to "prevent" criminal tendency from unwatched and uncared for children.
- For care to be reaffirmed as necessary and redistributed properly along the actors in the family and society, the State must support a radical perception of the binary nature of gender and market groups.
- Women need a radicalized redistribution of care between:
 - men and women; as well as between
 - women and the state.

Speaker:

Elizabeth Gardiner

Working Families Organisation

Introduction

- Ms Gardiner is Head of Policy for Working Families,
- This organisation:
 - Is the UK's leading charity promoting work-life balance and more flexible working;
 - Provides advice to parents and carers through a free helpline, advising over 5000 callers a year on employment and benefit issues.
 - Works with employers to help them understand and deliver the benefits of more flexible working environments.
 - Produces original research on the business case for flexible working and the impact of work on family life, which informs policy and parliamentary campaigning work.

- Ms Gardiner:
 - Is studying part-time to become a solicitor;
 - Works three days a week at Working Families with her law studies, her role as chair of a secondary school governing body, and with caring for her four children aged between 9 and 15 years.

Notes:

- Ms. Gardiner focused her discussion of working to the UK context.
- There is a need for a change to how we work.
- In the UK which is in recession like the rest of the world, flexible working is on the rise.
- The Working Families Organisation:
 - has been active for 30 years
 - has campaigned for—not funding but:
 - change to workplace in conjunction with employers
 - adoption of flexible-work rights
 - conducts research on the effects of long hours of work on family life
- Today, women's economic participation is at 70%.
 - Women play a crucial role in boosting family incomes.
- In 2/3 of families, both parents work.
- In 30% of families, the women are the main earner.
- The challenge faced by women is that they also need to also care for children and aging parents.
- Currently, mothers are entitled to 14 weeks of paid leave, unpaid parental leave. (NOTE: figures may be off; details not complete).
- In 2003, women gained the right to request for flexible hours.
- What are the barriers then that women face with respect to balancing work and care?
 - Child care is expensive and inflexible
 - There are not many options for day-care
 - It is women, not the whole family, that take the brunt of this burden. In addition, it is women, not the family, that must cope with the care of elders.
 - The quality of good work is culturally measured by hours worked. Consequently, women are seen as costly to employers.
 - Women often make the choice to work part-time, in which case their talents are wasted by taking any job, part-time, that makes up for their financial need.
- In the current economic downturn, women are stung hardest.
- There is limited paternity leave. This typifies how entrenched is the gender caring divide:
 - After a parental leave, the individual will make less money on average than comparable colleague that took no leave;
 - The average work week of a father is 50 hours. That's higher than the average before becoming a father (48 hours).
 - The only choice is either to:
 - keep full-time work and spend little time with kids; OR
 - take parental leave and spend time with kids.
- Question: WHY KEEP TO THIS MODEL?
- Alternative: flexible working
 - The benefits:

- Reduced cost related to absenteeism
- Positive link between flexible work and performance
- Women need not leave work and employee
- Flexible working is NOT about reducing work but SHIFTING it.
- Flexible working is possible at all levels of work, including upper managements.
- The potential for flexible working has been limited:
 - Men were declined to make recourse to flexible working. Why? Why not make accessible to all?
 - Need a change in how performance and success is evaluated. This would make men more comfortable in requesting a flexible work schedule.
 - The Government is increasing flexible work reforms despite lobbying by members of the labour force.
- FLEXIBLE WORKING IS NOT A CONCESSION TO WOMEN
- The hope is that flexible working will become an alternative to financial bonuses, which is more likely given the current economic situation.

Speaker:

Wiveca Holst

Swedish Women's Lobby

Introduction

- Ms Holst is a board member of the Swedish Women's Lobby and Sweden's expert in EPACVAW (European policy action centre violence against women)
- Ms Holst holds a BA in psychology and sociology and is a business economist.
- She became a feminist activist in the 1970s when she had her first daughter and needed day-care for her while working.
- Since the 1970s, Ms Holst has lobbied for equal sharing of parental leave between parents.
- Equal pay for equal work and equal share of unpaid work between women and men are very important to achieve equality between women and men.
- The Swedish Women's Lobby promotes and help to make feminist analysis of budgets.

Notes:

- Ms Holst spoke about the situation in Sweden
- There are recent equality codes:
 - Economic gender equality
 - Care equality
 - Bodily equality
- In the 1970s, Ms Holst had her first child while at university.
- In the 1970s, there was little child-care available and parental leave did not exist.
- During the 1970s, child-care options developed
- In the 1970s, abortion was not legal. Women travelled to Poland to have this performed.

Parental leave

- Sweden avoids the distinction between maternal and paternal leave by making recourse to the inclusive term of 'parental leave'
- Today:
 - 20% of men use the parental leave option available to them.
 - 60% don't use a single day of parental leave.
- There is a child-care allowance of approximately \$350 USD. But it is available only if one parent stays at home full-time.
- There is an attempt by the government to promote fathers also staying at home by making families eligible for a bonus. However to be eligible, women and men must show that there is complete sharing. (Strict application)

Childcare

- In the later part of the 1970s, childcare was better than it is now, though it is still good and affordable to all.
- Figures for Stockholm:
 - For 1st child, the cost is 3% of income or \$140/month
 - For 2nd children, the cost is 2% of income or \$90/month
 - For 3rd children, the cost is 1% or \$45/month

Reform to working hours

- Figures for Stockholm:
- (Currently, flexibility of work is not common. Women usually leave a full-time position for a part-time one)

Other considerations

- Pension amounts are based on income gained throughout one's life.
- Thus, if women work part-time, their pension is correspondingly low.
Women
 - Elderly women are not financially independent
 - Elderly women are dependent on the family unit to survive
 - This shows how the bread-winner model of social/labour structure continues
- There is no widow pension.
 - Women typically take care of their husbands who usually die first
 - Women need greater help from the government to be financial independent.
 - The elderly prefer to stay independent from kids and to have assistance from the government based on pension.
- After the birth of children, the father's wage increases whereas the mother's declines. The mother takes care of a greater share of house chores, of the children, then of elderly parents, and lastly her own husband. The mother is not cared for at her time of need.
- Need to increase perception that the State has a role to play in ameliorating the situation for women.

Families of the Missing: Coping with Ailing Family Members in Africa

International Federation of Families of Missing Persons in Armed Conflict
NGO Session at the UN Church Center

March 2, 2009

12pm-2pm

Participants:

- International Federation of Families of Missing Persons in Armed Conflict (IFFMPAC)
- Al-Hakkim Foundation, Iraq

Focus: Keeping families together and reuniting them. Despite the title of this event, there was very little discussion about Africa. The focus of the discussion was Iraq.

IFFMPAC:

- Stability in a country starts at the family level. Have to seek out families to create associations of families – networks of support. Need resources and skills to become self-sufficient.
- IFFMPAC facilitates healing and self-reliance and has outlined the rights of the family unit.

Al-Hakkim Foundation:

- Since 1980, 375,000-1million people have gone missing in Iraq
- There are mass graves. Some are dug up by individuals looking for their loved ones, thereby destroying the evidence and the site. The Iraqi government has legislated the protection of these mass graves, but lack enforcement.
- Iraq is in need of DNA testing centers/capabilities and forensic expertise
- Need to deal with the issue of compensation for the families: without death certificates cannot get compensation. Many families still don't know the fate of their loved ones with certainty.
- Daily violence and deaths – cannot always identify the bodies
- There are 5 million orphans in Iraq. Orphans and widows are generally ignored.
- Al-Hakkim provides education, financial help, support
- Major issues is how to find out what has happened to all the missing people. Many families want compensation, but cannot prove what happened. They want to hold those responsible accountable, but lack evidence.
- There was no consensus reached during the discussion, but there was an emphasis on compensating families

Because I'm a Girl: in Shadow of War, Plan International (NGO session)

March 2, 2pm

BACKGROUND OF THE REPORT

- Launched in 2007 to a global audience of more than 28 million people
- 9 annual reports until 2015
- Goal: Amplifying girls voice

STATS

- Over 200 million girls live in countries that are at risk of, or in the midst of, or emerging from an armed conflict.
- ...

WHY A REPORT?

1. Girls Lives Matter: Gender and age influence the way we treat them = double discrimination. What does it mean to be young + be a girl when securities breaks down? Need to take in account the needs of girls specifically when drafting policies.
2. Telling the Whole Story: Comprehensive understanding of how conflicts impacts girls' lives. More complex than what we see on TV. Affects everything: gender roles, education health, etc.
3. Amplifying the Facts

INTERPRETATIVE LENSES

1. Security and Protection
2. Access to Basic Services
3. Economic security
4. Gender Roles and relationships
5. Empowerment and participation
= All interconnected.

Girls have been socialized and taught to wait all their lives = double tragedy. Abuses are made with impunity, their rights were already violated before the conflict started.

Reasons: no status, seen as unworthy and dispensable, poor governance
Girls may join the armed forces voluntarily because they are seeking self-esteem: as combatants. Sex slaves, cooks, etc.+ can do everything other soldiers do: drugs, abduct and kill others + they are flexible and impressionable

At the State level: girls voiced silenced, no one talks to them directly.

Community: not going back home for fear of reprisals; rejection from family and community, especially if pregnant

POLITICAL UNREST IN KENYA – IMPACTS

- Announcement of election results in December 30th 2007 lead to the escalation of conflict in various parts of Kenya
- Displaces children in camps
- Trading sex for food and protection
- Violence doubled post election
- Gang rapes ethnically motivated in part
- Following rape; girls need specialized treatment but only available is in Nairobi
- A lot of sexual exploitation of girls by men in positions of responsibility and power (ex. Policeman)
- Girls taken from camps to help in homes as domestics
- Serious sanitary problems in camps

EFFECTS OF POST ELECTION VIOLENCE

- Unwanted pregnancies
- Increase in drop out rates in schools
- Early marriages
- Prostitution
- Psychological trauma
- Etc.

CHANGE IN GENDER ROLE

- Following their husband's death, some women became the family leader, which was positive in giving them more power

PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT [by Myriam Denov, myriam.denov@mail.mcgill.ca, McGill]

- Many international statutes and resolutions to protect girls and yet, the stats show that violence girls is far from decreasing
- Where are the girls? Girls are cast as emblematic victims; but there is a danger in not recognizing the complexity of their roles in those conflicts. There are also participants (make up 30% of combatants) and resistant
- The culture of violence is integral to the daily experience of girls
- Conflicts also further, in a way, girls' agency. Many found ways to protect themselves: power and small arms, marriage to power full commanders (better being abused by one man than by many), perpetrating acts of violence
- Resistance: resisting sexual violence, friendship secret solidarity, collective efforts of resistance.

POST-CONFLICT MARGINALISATION AND SURVIVAL

- Exclusion from DDR (Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs). They also often voluntarily avoid it since camps often dangerous
- Health issues
- Social exclusion
- Education (less likely to be sent to school, schools destroyed)
- Economic marginalization
- Post-conflict disillusionment (life sometimes better during war: access to money, food, power, etc.)

SUMMARY

- Girls are marginalized and rendered invisible at all stages of a conflict

- They are not just silent victims but also participants and resistant
- Must look at grls as agent of change

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Peer programs: girls helping girls
- Enact policies and set up mechanism that ensure more equal gender roles and relations
- Integrating girls in identification of risks and the effective development of protection strategies
- Support community based initiatives for programs of reintegration

Visit: www.becauseiamagirl.org

Sharing best practices and lessons learned to prevent violence against girls, Church Center - Grum Rm – Unicef Task Force (NGO session)

March 3rd, 16:00

The project of the task force is to find the best practices (what worked, what did not) from different countries in order to compile a list of possible legislations to eliminate violence girl and pressure governments to enact them.

NGO from Turkey

- Context: Secularization since 1923 that led to legislative gaps that allow for abuse, coup d'Etat in 1980, education is problematic, 7/9 women said to have been subjected to violence, etc.
- Actions taken: publishing the "Purple Newsletter". Started to lobby very early for legislative changes and when the reform of the civil code and of the penal code started to be discussed, they pressured so that women rights in the private sphere would be recognized and so that a gender perspective would be taken. The media was used A LOT.
- Reforming laws, a commendable success: the big campaign on sexual rights reform brought a big change of philosophy and led to more than 30 amendments. We went from restricting women's sexuality to protecting sexual integrity. Dispositions discriminating between women (ex. Higher sentence for rape of a virgin) were taken out. Vocabulary describing women as property as mostly been taken out. Domestic violence is finally recognized as a crime. Rape is now a criminal offense, and the rapist can not longer marry the women he raped to get out of being charged. Women and men have now equal property rights. Marriage age was raised to 18 for women. Women and men were recognized as equal heads of the family.
- Still improvements to make: did not succeed to take out articles criminalizing "indecent behavior" (often abused to restrict women's freedom).
- Lessons learned: advocacy does not lead to change from authorities directly, but indirectly since it does change the public outlook on the matter, which has an impact on political decisions. Making the situation of Turkey known by the international community and keeping it in the "headlines" can lead to very helpful international pressure.

NGO from USA, ECPA

- Created a project in Mexico to prevent child sex tourism
- Like in Turkey, insist that laws need to be changed. In Mexico too a man raping a women can get out of being charged by marrying her (and she cannot refuse)
- Surprisingly (or not), it has been very difficult to get American companies to enact an "administrative law" against sex tourism
- To get cooperation from companies, a bottom up approach (going to branches not headquarters first) has been more successful
- It is important to have men and local heroes to support the campaign

NGO from Norway

- Led a project in Togo to integrate boys and girls in policy making.
- Togo is a new democracy and so there a process to enact and reform laws
- Kid-friendly ways, such as stories, were used to communicate rights and problems and get them to discuss it.
- The responses from kids was surprising: they understood the issues well and came up with solutions and suggestions for laws
- 4 of their 7 amendments were accepted and applied. Some of them included: to abolish corporal punishment and humiliation in schools; make sure all children under 18 that loose their parents are adopted or given caregivers
- Children partnered with lawyers
- Problems: what is the appropriate age at which to involve kids in advocacy? We cannot forget that there are risks in involving kids, some of them fatals. Especially, girls speaking up often end up punished. Girls and boys seemed to want to participate in different ways
- Lessons learned: it is important to get girls and boys to work together, girls can also change actual and customary laws

* A 10 minutes excerpt of a video called the *Japan Dream* was shown.

The Legal Profession **As a Path for Women to Positions in Power and Decision-Making**

Speaker from Africa

- Education is essential for women's participation and capacity in power structures.
- Women are a minority in positions of leadership in the legal profession.
- In most countries, women constitute one quarter to one third of the legal profession.
- There is a big difference between participation in the Civil and Common law countries, as there is less participation in the Common law countries.
- Income differentials remain significant. Women are less likely to become partners and less likely to experience upward mobility.
- The judiciary is an area where women's representation has risen significantly worldwide. Women constitute about a quarter of the judiciary.
- Yet, traditional male-dominated structures persist and women remain in the lower ranks.

- Poverty, fear and lack of self-esteem along with domestic responsibility contribute to the low representation of women in the profession.
- In Africa, there is an emphasis on access and democracy to improve the situation for women.

The United States

- Women are still solo practitioners and involved in small and medium firms and are not well-represented as partners.
- In the U.S., there are still women who face the glass ceiling.
- Women in the legal profession can be over-qualified in the positions they are in. This is in part because they want families.
- Women face care-giving responsibility.
- It is important to have women in positions of power because without them, we would not have some of the access that women now have in the State of New York, for example.
- There are more women going into mediation, arbitration and ombudsmen positions because these roles allow for more flexibility.
- A lot of women go outside the typical role of attorney now to such positions as local centers and communities.
- Women are trusted in these positions because of our code of ethics. This is evidenced in the fact that a lot of women are recruited to be on boards.
- The legal profession often leads to politics.

Taiwan

- Even once women enter the legal field, they are still segregated.
- In 2004, women for the first time outnumber the men in the legal profession.
- The High Supreme Court in Taiwan is still 90% male. As a matter of fact, the majority of decision-making positions are still male.
- We need more gender justice. We must eliminate the glass ceiling.

Italy

- 50% of lawyers are women
- The first female judge was in 1967. Today, women constitute almost half of the judiciary.

Muslim Women

- Malaysia- women have seen many improvements. Yet, when it comes to religion, women still face many difficulties.
- Eight female judges were appointed to the ICC, which is a positive sign.

Main point: to overcome the glass ceiling, we need laws that change the system.

(another set of notes from this session):

Legal Profession as a Path for Women to positions of power and decision-making: International Federation of Women Lawyers

March 2 (NGO Session)

Stella Ugboma, FIDA President, Attorney at law, Nigeria

From a Nigerian perspective. Do women 'belong' in decision-making positions? As women gain access to education etc... the work towards removing structures that have impeded access continues. Steps recommended to increase the capacity of women to participate in decision making is education.

Education:

- Suffragette movement – removing barriers to a legal career.
- there is a difference in CVL v CML countries – women hold less decision-making positions in CML countries. Women are in law school on par with men on most countries.
- This despite significant efforts women remain on the fringes of 'profession' (and decision-making?)
 - o Less likely to become partners, less likely to specialize, etc...
 - o Number of women jurists has risen significantly,

Giovanna Chiara, FIDA Treasurer, Attorney at Law, Italy

Denise Scotto, FIDA UN Representative NY

Johanna Sterbin, FIDA UN Representative NY, Admin law judge/Moderator

Shang Luan Yan, Prof. Social Work, Shieh Chien University

Respondent: Puan Sri Saraswathy Devi, FIDA past president, attorney at law, Malaysia

LGBT Rights' Session, Hosted by Human Rights' Watch

Organizations Present: Girl Scouts [Green and White Mountain]; Sweden LGBT; International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights' Commission; International Women's Health Coalition, U.S. Anglican Office

Countries Represented: Australia, Spain, Taiwan, Japan, USA, Netherlands, Denmark, France, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Germany

Speaker 1, Cynthia Roschild:

*History of LGBT Rights' lobbying at the UN

- Beijing Platform for Action, 1995: language developed around rights and orientation

→ LGBT advocacy at the UN has always arisen within women's health advocacy, and is part of a legacy of feminist advocacy. The opposition faced to developing a discourse and establishing policies is similar to that facing the women's rights' movement.

→ LGBT advocacy places emphasis on the need for recognition of bodily autonomy of LGBT persons and on decision-making

- 1993: Conference in Vienna was also important for LGBT

Some important issues being addressed within LGBT advocacy:

- assaults in streets and in the home of LGBT persons [public-private divide, similar to that addressed in cases of domestic abuse, women's assault, rape in public as opposed to in the household]
- forced pregnancy, forced sterilization
- death penalty

Written Statement re: LGBT Rights and Counter-response and Message by Commissioner

63rd Session, Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Statement submitted by Argentina, France, Croatia, France, Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands, and Norway to the UN

Sponsored by a number of other countries

*seeks to reaffirm principles of human rights

* concerned by violations of human rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity

*condemns HR violations including the death penalty, arbitrary arrest, detention and the withholding of economic and social rights

*calls for states to ensure that HR violations based on sexual orientation are investigated and perpetrators held accountable.

Message submitted by Naventham Pillay, UN High Commission for Human Rights

*there are those who argue that because sexual orientation/gender identity are not mentioned in specific covenants, there is no protection. This is not a tenable position.

*some 10 countries still have laws that make homosexual activity punishable by death.

*in South Africa, the Constitution upholds a right to be protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

*general support for statement on LGBT Rights

Counter-Statement submitted by Syria, sponsored by a number of countries [including Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, Cameroon, Chad, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, UAE, Zimbabwe]

*human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, mutually reinforcing.

*concern about introducing to the UN notions that have "no legal foundations", focus on "certain persons on the grounds of their sexual interests and behaviors while ignoring that intolerance and discrimination regrettably exist in various parts of the world."

*alarm stems from the potential the legitimization of many "deplorable acts including pedophilia". Also issue of attributing "particular sexual interests or behaviors to genetic factors, a matter that has been scientifically rebuffed repeatedly."

* belief that people are not inherently vulnerable, but some individuals are made vulnerable due to the socio-economic setting they live in.

*emphasis on "relevant" human rights mechanisms

Legal Profession as a Path for Women to positions of power and decision-making: International Federation of Women Lawyers

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Refugees: Asia Pacific Women's Watch workshop on refugees, IDPs and peace building

2 March 09 (NGO Session)

Kay – Philippines

UN Sec. Council Resolution 1325 (peacebuilding:
<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>) – challenge is realizing the UN resolution on the ground.

- tried to identify key players in implementing : UN, gov't orgs, civil society, media,
 - o most nations do not have a national plan for implementation

- media – little or no info on women’s role in peacebuilding. Community journalists are unaware of the resolution and don’t know how to integrate women’s issue into their reporting.

Role of media

- study – action research.
- Media literacy – women often portrayed as objects rather than subjects in the media.
- Primer “engendering peace journalism: keeping communities whole – a guide on gender-sensitive peace and conflict reportage” (http://www.isiswomen.org/downloads/wmafp/modules/WMAfP_guide_en.pdf) – for journalists that want to report on peace and conflict, care for their well being etc.
- Peace journalism is not peace advocacy – they are doing their job (not “activist” journalism).
 - If women in media have a better understanding of gender issues in women’s daily lives, then there is a possibility to work together in spite of power differentials.
- The women from the grassroots are doing the work but the media is not covering it.
- So want to revisit role of key players a look closer at media.

Moderator (and Australian woman from England) – a couple of words on two things:

1) Burma

Refugees – high levels of teen pregnancy and suicide in camps

Those in urban situations are exploited by workers, abused by Ees much less than Thai counterparts.

Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants continue to escape into Thailand.

IDWA has been working with the Women’s League of Burma.

Women’s League of Burma rep:

- comprised of 12 women’s organizations in Burma and bordering countries.
- Women face political difficulties as well as issues as women: ie. in Thailand they are often migrant workers, do home-work for low pay and have no legal recourse.
- In refugee camps: educate women on their rights, human rights, educate migrant women.

2) Women in resettlement

Sydney-based group of women, approached by a group of African refugee women about 4 years ago who asked who we were and said they want to speak for themselves. Many of the refugees have come through women at risk program (if identified as woman at extreme risk in a camp then they will be taken out and given status in Australia).

- service providers: “we give you what we think you should have”
- worked with this community and dept of immigration to improve service provision – biggest aha moment was in talking how social policy was defined.
- Now about 2% of the refugee population, so the programming has been important.

Full text resolution 1325

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 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,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls,

Recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and in this regard noting the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (S/2000/693),

Recognizing also the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of its President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. **Urges** Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;
2. **Encourages** the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;
3. **Urges** the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard calls on Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;
4. **Further** urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;
5. **Expresses** its willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component;
6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace-building measures, invites Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;
7. **Urges** Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;
8. **Calls** on all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia: (a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; (b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements; (c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;
9. **Calls** upon all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention Security Council - 5 - Press Release SC/6942 4213th Meeting (PM) 31 October 2000 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two

Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

10. **Calls** on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;

11. **Emphasizes** the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes including those relating to sexual violence against women and girls, and in this regard, stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions;

12. **Calls** upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolution 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998;

13. **Encourages** all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants;

14. **Reaffirms** its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to give consideration to their potential impact on the civilian population, bearing in mind the special needs of women and girls, in order to consider appropriate humanitarian exemptions;

15. **Expresses** its willingness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups;

16. **Invites** the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further invites him to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations;

17. **Requests** the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his reporting to the Security Council, progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls;

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter."

Role of Women in Power and decision Making in legal and judicial positions

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

March 3 (NGO Session)

Woman on Mozambique

- formation on women's associations of lawyers and others – these organizations made use of int'l conventions and other regimes.
- Advocacy: law of family, successions, and other laws that were approved.
- Today there are 92/250 women as deputies
- Good representation of women in government:
 - o PM is a woman
 - o 7 Ministers
 - o 5 vice-ministers
- nevertheless there are some constraints – mainly in judicial area.
 - o Have a school of judges and every year women enroll in those courses, and take on positions of judges.
 - o Enrollment on equal basis for women and men.
 - o The problem begins when the career starts; same competence, but in assessments of competence in judgments, women perform better.
 - o Corruption like many countries.
- With all this work the government changed its approach, introduced more opportunities for women – but only 1 judge on the supreme court is female, and only 2/13 provincial judges are female.
- Government (cabinet) has formed groups examining domestic violence between women and children, but not between partners (?) bc the government claimed that this was a social problem.

Moderator

Finalnd has been at the forefront of women's rights

Past Pres of Women Lawyers in Finalnd

- history of Finnish women's voting rights
 - o 1906 Finnish women became first in the world to gain full equality rights
 - could stand for parliament
 - 1906 19 women became members of parliament
 - in 2007 – there were 86/200 (114 men) women who were members of parliament
 - o 1987 the *Act on Equality between Women and Men*
 - o 1994 – woman was appointed speaker of parliament
 - o 2000 – first woman president of the republic
 - o 2006 – she was reelected for 6 years
 - o 2003 – PM female for short while.

Equal Sharing of responsibilities of caregivers in HIV/AIDS - Case Studies in

Africa: International Alliance of Women

3 March (NGO Session)

Discussion (discussion-driven session):

- Programs have very limited funding from government, so rely on funding for donors. But this funding come

- Involving men in caregiving: countries should come up with a framework that ensures that men provide support to people providing support to people living with HIV. When ppl are told they are HIV + they are told they can't drink from the well etc...
- Confused about talking about men in caregiving. What are we discussing? It's a natural mothering ability – we are mixing things. Violence against women – can't be trusted with children – but then we say they must take care of us -> it's confusing. Women should appreciate the loving and caring gifts God has given us. Men are custodians of powers – we can only tell them to provide us with policies that assist us. (general disagreement)
- Project focusing on HIV and AIDS in southern Africa – on involvement of men, are developing a document showing experience of male involvement “Increasing Involvement of Men in Caregiving (?)” case studies from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi – shows the ways that men can and are involved in caregiving. Are also currently consulting with stakeholders on what they should say on this in recommendations to SADC – an ongoing project which will address many of the issues being discussed.
- If we only talk about compensation for women and shared responsibilities then we will have problems – there are other issues to consider: respect for women; are women aware that they are caring more of their fair share of the burden of care etc. Our program: one partner pays a stipend to caregivers, and
- Florence – originally from Uganda and lives in Atlantic Georgia – the issues of men helping with care is a very sensitive issue in the African context – intertwined with culture, religion, class. I understand that traditionally both women and men work at home, but the Q is to what extent do men provide their services. Women have traditionally accepted these roles, but there is a time it is too much: caring for Pts, elderly, communities, esp. and extra burden from women in rural areas. Men work, but they tend to be involved in wage work, so women tend to stay home and do chores. As men work we should bargain for the following: 1) wage opportunities for both men and women; and 2) support from orgs and communities so that there is caregiving coming into our homes (it doesn't matter men or women -> ie. in Zimbabwe men are providing care but are being paid, but women need that income too). So if we are going to provide models it needs to provide opportunities to both men and women.
- Miriam (last name?) – group on children and HIV – last week launched 50 reports, some were focused on community research issue. The compensation issue is going up through the ranks for big donors (eg. PEPFAR) – eg. professionalizing and standardizing caring work, at the same time there is hesitance bc there is heavy reliance on the volunteer labour. BUT research shows that caregivers need more resources for their households – need food and nutritional augmentation as resources. These issues are in debates on int'l health care infrastructures.
- Need to talk about resources, stigma, and men and women working together.
- In New Haven – so at Yale worked with mayor on a taskforce -> there is a need for communities to organize in ways that work for them. How does one mobilize resources without using language that oversimplifies.
- Woman from Kenya – the language of women carrying the burden of care is not something that there is a construct of the West; it is a fact. Let's call it a fact -> the burden of care falls on women, when children are orphaned it is the girls that take over. Social security in Africa is women. If we deplete

- social security then we jeopardize continuity. Women should be compensated their work – let's share our stories of the work we are doing.
- A 'more neutral' term – division of labour.
 - Where I am from, if my wife falls ill then she is sent back to her family. But if I leave my wife, then fall ill, I can return to my wife and she will care for me. My organization is trying to bring males into participating in this burden of care. Working with boys make it easier for them to move into care environment as adults.
 - Also need to recognize that men also play a role, s to what extent do they play a role? Men contribute, but women contribute a lot more – we need compassion; collaboration; models that will unite families rather than tear them apart.
-

Global Gender and Climate Alliance session – Climate Change Negotiations – an Action Agenda

3 March (UN Event)

Moderator – Winnie Byanyima, Director of UNDP Gender Team

- women not as present as they should be in CC discussions
 - o partly bc the discussions have been made to be very technical
- CC a woman's issue, women are vulnerable to climate disasters ie. in Kenya, women spend 80% of efforts in day fetching water
- Women have knowledge that should be centered in CC negotiations

Rebecca Pearl – Coordinator, Global Gender Climate Alliance

"Securing a Place for Gender Equality on Copenhagen's Outcomes"

what the alliance is going, how to get involved.

- [PPTs]
- Goal of alliance – to ensure that CC policies are gender responsive.
 - o Policy, finance, capacity building, and information tools/methodologies
- Case studies of women's leadership in communities, converting it into CC dialogue.
- 3 CC agreements:
 - o UNCCD (desertification protocol) – includes references to women
 - o CBD – includes references to women
 - o UNFCCC – nothing – hope to change it at Copenhagen.
 - o Many others are relevant, but nothing in the UNFCCC text.
- Women in UNFCCC negotiations and delegations – poorly represented.
 - o GGCA has done workshops for delegates on gender and CC issues.
- Some National adaption platforms include gender: Bangladesh, Uganda -> want to see this all countries plans.
- Finances on adaptation and mitigation: will need to spend a lot of money per year on mitigation, and adaptation count is still being conducted.
- What you can do:
 - o Talk to your country's Ministry working on climate change, find out their position and whether they are looking at gender perspectives
 - o Ensure women are in your country's delegations
 - o Review countries national climate change plan.
 - o Request
 - o Contact GGCA secretariat - info@gender-climate.org

Dr. Anamah Tam, President, Int'l Council of Women

"a HR perspective on Women and CC"

- Lawyer, business degree, sits on numerous committees.
- CC is a complex and multifaceted challenge to global security.
- 07 human development report – says CC is likely to magnify existing gender inequalities? 4 things:
 - o what causes climate change?
 - Local – need best management for soil and plant species. Water runoff changes water runoff, mixing of fresh and ocean water. Disturbing local plants can cause many negative impacts...
 - Good management for local catchments and watersheds will provide water that is predictable in its seasonal supply -> thus CC is a dev't issue.
 - o What can we do about it?
 - Have created a toolkit – what you can do.
 - o Convention and art. 14
 - The convention – 185 state parties bound to ensure that discriminatory laws against women are removed from the statute books. Arts 1-16 of Convention.
 - During her time at CEDAW has consulted with 94 state parties on Art. 14 – this article encapsulates the rights that women should have. In rural areas folks are poor and women are poorest or poor – the women may not have opportunity for education.
 - o Legal framework – UNFCCC and current treaty negotiations.

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Carsten Staur, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN

"the road to Copenhagen 2009" (CoP 15 is in Denmark in Dec this year).

- Need a legal text to be adopted in addition to a change in the way we live – a paradigmatic shift – this Dec is one aspect.
- Some say sort the economy first, but our position is deal with the financial crisis and CC together. Put in place a strategy that includes a CC agenda. -> an opportunity, not a threat.
- Not enough anymore to not have all countries on board – India, China, Mexico – need to commit to reductions.
 - o Whatever we do on CC should not ask countries to slow down on their growth trajectories – low carbon growth.
 - o Need to combine adaptation on CC and (st) bw countries
 - o Need to conclude a deal on finance and technology – need to put in motion a system that will work to make money available to both adaptation and mitigation. "no money no deal" – need money to have technology, and need technology to have a deal. TBD how much from gov't and how much from private sources.
- This is an issue on how we organize societies – must involve heads of states, not specific Ministers. They are the ones that are in a position to answer to the whole of their society.
 - o Sectoral aspects are important, but the paradigm shift is society-wide.
- Relevant stakeholders
 - o How CC has different impacts on men and women (like poverty)
 - o Need to accomplish mainstreaming -> hope that gov'ts look at gender when implementing various aspects of the CC agreement.

- Women will have to influence decision-making at national level prior to Copenhagen.
- final stretch of negotiations starts 29th March, first negotiating text will be on the table in June.
- It is also important that women approach governments on their approach, and at an international level.
- My gov't has looked at how civil society and governments can impact on the negotiations.
- March 10-12 are key scientific recommendations on key action items – want women's views/issues to be present in those.
- 24-26 May world business summit on CC in Copenhagen – gender perspective should be part of the business response.
- Also media – their role in including a gender perspective on CC.

Dr. Jung-Sook Kim, President, Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics

“the Manila Declaration on Women and CC”

(http://www.unifem.org/attachments/stories/200810_ManilaDeclarationOnGenderAndClimateChange_eng.pdf)

A short summary:

- at 3rd global congress of women in politics and governance –
 - 250 women politicians and NGO leaders from 61 nations.
 - The congress held that CC ought to be a primary concern for women decision-makers.
 - Declaration:
 - CC must be understood as a development issue with gender issues, a concerted effort by all stakeholders, sensitive to indigenous knowledge-systems...
 - Women and men must participate...
 - Parties to UNFCCC should ask secretariat to adhere to HRs a elimination of discrimination (UN SC Res 1328 and 1820, MDG, Framework on Rs of Ind. Ppls)
 - ...

Q&A:

- climate wrongs and human rights <http://www.oxfam.org/policy/bp117-climate-wrongs-and-human-rights>
- on the UNFCCC website is where the text will be available.
- Rebecca: AWG-LCA – gender is in the work being done in this group –
 - Gender strategies text are online for CBD and desertification convention.
 - CSW task force – one task is ensuring that women's ministries and env ministries to be engaged with one another. (can groups like CSW get on delegation?)
 - Just put out a manual on gender and climate change, and UNDP also has one coming out.
 -

Inequalities bw women and men, violence against women and HIV/AIDS in Iran

March 4 (NGO Session)

Film: Tehran protest on women's equality – 70 arrested. (campaign image: scales with one side a woman's sign, and other side a men's side) – film is on utube.

- training volunteers to raise awareness.
- Campaign support growing – women and men, 3 generations, working for equal rights for women.
- Campaign site: "change for equality" has been "filtered" 20 times, people are getting arrested for signature collection etc. (acquitted).
- Working to improve conditions for female prisoners.

Honour killing in Iran –

honour killings are the story of women and girls fighting against tribal traditions.

- In the tribal order, all members must be obedient to traditions. Epic poems and legendary stories of men's honour are told from one generation to the next – these stories teach what the tribes are.
- Honour killings usually take the lives of women – those that do it have accepted the norms of such a system, such as:
 - o Violence due to anger, revenge, pride are characteristics of behaviour, many honour killings begin with baseless accusations, and little effort is made to discover the truth.
 - o Suicide, discovery of a body in a river, poisoning – a sign of men's honour or zeal, men's acts are honoured good or bad, but women's actions can shame men.
 - o The smallest suspicion can lead to an honour killing.
 - During my research I realized – individuals define themselves in accordance with tribal order, violence condoned and considered necessary to preserve the tribe.
 - Members of the tribe develop a mental attitude based on fanatical sensibilities – the tribe is sacred -> such sensibilities allow for eg. a son to murder his mother, or someone refusing to marry who is chosen for her.
 - Why shouldn't a women marry who she wants – women struggle to change the tribal norms but are paying a heavy price.
 - Women are struggling to gain a sense of self beyond tribal identifications – modernity comes with movement to urban centers, but in rural areas tribal killings continue.
 - Legal code – Art. 220 of Islamic Penal Code, a father or maternal grandfather is not punished if they kill a daughter under the law for retribution. Not sentenced as murderers; sentenced to 2 or 3 years in prison and treated as heroes when they return to their families.
 - Most honour killings occur in tribal areas, rural provinces.

- Women's rights activists are seeking to change Art. 220 of Islamic Penal Code and are working to this end.

Moderator – in Italy honour killings were in penal code until 1981. In Turkey they changed it a couple of years ago.

Aseih Amini – women's executions and stoning

Traditions and laws that are anti-women: stoning punishment.

- exists and is implemented in Iran. Described in Art. 83-107 of Islamic Penal Code – there are no reliable statistics about its implementation prior to 2006.
 - Some reports in the media prior to this date, but no official entity (govt or NGO) has obtained info prior to 2006.
- 2001 Iran's highest judicial official ordered judges not to issue stoning sentence, in accordance with Art. 281-283: criminal procedures of a judge can use own authority to carry it out...
- 2006 informed of 2 stoning in city of Mashhad (sp?) – thought that stoning was no longer taking place. Occurred in the middle of the night and in secret. Local media had reported it as an execution, not a stoning.
 - Interviewed a family member of one of the victim.
 - Victim had been a teacher, her children remembered her with respect and fondness: on gravestone poem: she was their sole pride and hope.
 - Why was she stoned? When she was young she was forced into marriage with an uneducated man (she was educated, he was "inferior"), she did not love him, during the engagement she'd hide not to meet him when he came to the house. Father have the right to choose the husband for their virgin daughter – but no such restrictions for male children.
 - When women are forced into marriage it caused hate from the beginning of a marriage. According to her siblings and children she was a victim of domestic violence. She witnessed him "entertaining" other women many times.
 - Even if a women has a legitimate cause for hating her husband she is forced to stay with her husband. Leaving him is possible through the courts but in practice it is difficult and cumbersome. Her family would likely say she has to stay and raise the children.
 - She met another man who showed her emotional support. He murdered her husband, he said she was a co-conspirator, and she disclosed their sexual relationship -> the courts sentenced them both to stoning.
 - Many women have sought refuge with another man to escape domestic violence. Many lose custody of children, are denied divorce - > in seeking a better their life they do not think they will meet with stoning.
- Having spoke with another women recently while in NY
 - The woman has been sentenced to stoning. Over and over again she said her family is responsible bc they forced her into the marriage
 - People do not widely support stoning – most are repulsed by it.
- There have been over 11 cases of stoning sentences –
 - Activists have been disseminating news quickly both within and outside of the country
 - Officials originally denied that stonings took place or that sentences were issued

- After disseminating info they were forced to acknowledge the reality.
-

Fatima (social worker w over 40 yrs experience working with women) – on HIV and women and children

- infected and affected women heads of households
- due to limited access to reliable data in Iran, much of this info is based on personal experience.
- Epi pattern of HIV
 - o is men – over 80% ppl living with HIV are men.
 - o Most common transmission by injection drug use.
 - o Addiction has been considered a felony in Iran – many ppl w HIV spend time in the penal system.
 - o Coupled with lack of harm reduction, this has made HIV one of the leading sites of transmission in Iran.
- Women-headed households: social stigma, taboos, prohibiting gay men to get involved in labour market -> these women have few opportunities to engage in the formal economy, meanwhile they are resp. to care for their families. Must either accept low paid work in formal sector, or get involved in high risk occupations such as sex work.
 - o Also caring for children that may also be HIV+.
 - o Iran – no strategy for caring for sero-pos children. The safety net for these children is the extended family.
 - But often from more traditional parts of society, or can not provide any significant support (?why).
 - o 2 scale-up HIV prevention
 - o 2 take measures to provide support to vulnerable social groups
 - o 4 develop policies on eliminating stigma related to HIV and gender
 - o 5 involve civil society orgs as full partners in development and implementation of HIV related policies.
- The government has not taken action on this matter
- In 2006 the country progress report on UNAIDS the government was asked to “facilitate info of new NGOs and exchange strong info bw government and NGOs”
 - o Iran in past 3 yrs has put severe restrictions on NGO organizing, incl. those doing HIV work.
 - o Activist have been accused of sewing seeds for the so-called “velvet revolution”.

Shahla Akhtari – Iranian NGOs and UN Agencies Cooperation on HIV/AIDS – CSW

- has researched why the relationship bw NGOs and UN is so weak.
- Official gov’t figured on HIV and NGO figures are radically different.
- Drug injection is the primary route of transmission (65.5%)
- 80-90% of those registered at health clinics for HIV care are male – not sure why women are not accessing services (stigma, social role, expectations, etc.)
- past decade: low prevalence to concentrated epidemics -> many of the addicts in relationships with women.
- NGOS:
 - o Advantage - closer affinities to community groups

- No formalist structure has seriously recognized the role of NGOs.
- NGOs need capacity building too.
- Resource: UNICEF book – what religious leaders can do in response to HIV and AIDS – first time mention of condom use in a religious book -> a success.
- Currently cooperation bw NGOs and UN is limited to approved relationships.

**Inheritance and Property Rights and Linkages to HIV/AIDS in Africa:
Federation of Lawyers in Kenya**

Mar 6 10:00am (NGO Session)

10th floor Church Centre

Moderator: FIDA Kenya

- does advocacy on legal issues, Kenya is good at signing int'l agreements and FIDA does work to "domesticate" them. Also do family law and represents clients on issues re: discrimination against women.

Evelyn Opondo – Sr. Programme Officer, FIDA legal framework in Africa w/r/t women's access to property and inheritance rights

- in Africa, but focus on Kenya -> says what is true in Kenya is also true in most of Africa.
- Will look at access and control over land and property.
- Africa has historical land injustices that predate colonial times
 - Before colonial times, land communally owned by clans – but when you look at registration women were never listed as landowners
 - So in traditional systems women did not own land, thus their access was restricted.
 - Registration was listed in names of male heads of houses.
- Another problem: many land laws (75) that sometimes contradict each other -> complex for women that can not afford lawyers or who may be illiterate.
- Even through statutory laws provide for registration of laws, but still customary laws are practices alongside these laws
 - Egs.
 - women can inherit land from parents, but customary laws do not allow this.
 - Constitution says there shall not be discrim. based on sex, but this happens in the area of property -> this is the area that women are most discriminated against.
- Many women have been thrown out of their homes, when they separate or divorce, without any property whatsoever.
 - Many women are to contribute to the home, but many women do unpaid work in the home and can't give a financial contribution to the acquisition of property -> but work like spending hours getting water etc. also contribute to the home.
- In Kenya, there are no laws barring women from accessing money or getting loans, but in reality women can not access loans bc the major form of collateral is land -> this means that you can not get access to other forms of enterprise as well.
 - To address this gov't has put in play the Women's Enterprise and Development Fund ~ 12.5 million dollars

- Was to facilitate development of women.
- The money allocated has been insufficient – calling on gov't to increase this fund so that many more women can access it.
- Another challenge is polygamy and how it impacts on women's property rights.
 - While at an int'l level it has been resolved that polygamy violates women's equal rights, but in reality it is not going to stop soon.
 - Men end up getting more property in a polygamous situation – with each woman he gains more property, and keeps it if the woman passes on.
 - But women gain less with each woman, bc the women have to share all of the land.
 - So the practice is still there – the Kenya Law Reform Commission has drafted how to deal with this:
 - when 1 man 1 woman married – share land equally
 - 1 man 2 women – divided equally amongst all 3.
 - This is one approach that the rest of Africa can consider using.
- Property rights violations
 - Property not registered in women's names – when husbands pass on, the families of the husband usually end up disinheriting the woman and kicking her out of the home.
 - Children – in many cases the guardians misappropriate the property left by children's parents
 - Such children and women often end up in the street/slums.
 - Kenyan proposal: even children that are not the age of majority can own property in their own names where circumstances allow for that.
- The effects of customary laws.
 - Wife inheritance, widow cleansing – customary practices that are still practiced that violate women's rights.
 - Now you can own property in your own name as a woman now ->
 - If you husband dies of HIV and the person coming to inherit you does not have HIV, but you will spread it to his other wives OR you are not HIV+ and he is.
- Access to justice
 - Kenyan laws are complex and it is expensive to hire lawyers – national law policy reform is proposing to deal with this
- Recommendations
 - Women should know their rights and claim them – men need to know those rights as women
 - Draft National Law Policy is important for women.

Moderator

sum – few women are landowners in Kenya, men are the ones with access to law and prosperity, women are unaware of the land laws and their rights. Customary laws clash with legal rights. Married women can not inherit from their fathers.

- the Matrimonial Prosperity Act – a recent case watered down all of the gains made – now women have to prove their shared ownership, whereas before they did not.

Katherine Muma (sp?) – independent consultant working on law, health, HIV and HR issues, was active in the task force on the HIV and AIDS Act. She worked in the A-G office on Int'l treaties, and was part of the team that did UN Convention on rights of persons with disabilities.

- Topic: Inheritance of property (MDG), HIV, and access to justice for women.
- First 6 MDGs are relevant to women and property
 - o 1 – hunger
 - o 2 - universal education
 - o 3 – promoting gender equality and empowering women – denial of property rights
 - o 4 – reducing child mortality – economic disempowerment of women provides less resources to women thus child likely suffers
 - o 5 –
 - o 6 – challenging HIV and other diseases – rights to inheritance a catalyst to increased transmission.
- The situation of Kenya pretty much a representation of elsewhere in Africa
 - o 1 in 2 women experience absolute poverty
 - insufficient food – much worse in rural areas
 - majority of ppl experiencing poverty are in rural areas, mostly women
 - top 10% control 36% of total expenditure.
 - Gap bw richest and poorest is huge.
 - o 54% of children delivered in Kenya born at home
 - in rural areas children twice as likely to be born at home – 80% in rural areas
 - about 9(?)% of gov't expenditures goes to health care
 - 40% of health care services provided by missionaries in Kenya –
 - pregnant women are not uncommonly found in wheelbarrows when they have a problem in labour and people are trying to get them to medical health
 - o impact of HIV on women
 - ¼ in Kenya HIV+, over half are women
 - 70% are HIV infections are in rural areas, though services are concentrated in urban areas. (80% of pop. lives in rural areas)
 - women more affected:
 - biological susceptibility
 - poverty
 - insecurity of temporary living conditions -> can lead to sex work.
 - Gender-based violence – rape (incl. marital rape, abuse in workplace)
 - Lack of access to women-controlled reproductive means.
 - An HIV+ woman suffers additional discrimination –
 - In a rural area if in laws know her serostatus her rights are more unlikely to be protected after the death of a spouse
 - Limited access to HIV education
 - Eg. billboards with info in English, placed in a rural area -> can be a waste esp. when output measured by how many billboards go up rather than how many women get the message.
 - o Inheritance
 - Systemic gender inequality
 - Kenyan constitution –
 - Women not granted equal citizenship s. 90 and s. 91 – women are not able to obtain identity cards w/out

- evidence coming from a man (usually a husband or a father) –
- Need the id card to enter into a contract, get a passport, a bank account.
 - To get this you need evidence from your father, or if married from your husband/chiefs, to prove you should be given that document
 - Indirect discrimination – s. 82 of constitution –
 - Prohibits discrim based on sex, but permits it in other areas (ie. land inheritance)
 -
 - Women own 6% of land in Kenya, and are 80% of land work force.
 - Access to formal justice for women
 - 80% of ppl live in rural areas –
 - access to crts is 15-30km away, sometimes up to 100km before you can find a magistrate – so access to justice is very dear.
 - Court processes are lengthy –
 - If you do well, 2-4 years, can go on fro 6 years.
 - Imagine a woman who is sent away by brothers after husband dies – her only form of income is soiling land, so can't do this for 6 years. Where does she live-> market, street, has to feed her kids.
 - -> Can be a high risk situation for HIV transmission.
 - Since 90% of women are under the jurisdiction of cultural powers,
 - Legal solutions only assist about 10% of women in the country – how to address this?
 - Particularly when HIV+ women are being sent away from families in large numbers once the family dies. Women have their houses burned down and literally walk away with their children. Get to your parents place and your brother tell you that you can not stay. Sex work becomes a real option.
 - SO seeking ADR possibilities
 - Tried with one community, aiming to work within the culture of the community. The prevalence rate was 12% among men, 17% among women.
 - Met with council of elders
 - Got widows to come and tell their story
 - Council's first reaction was that they were lying – they community wouldn't do that – so they used this as evidence to reinstate the widows in the community and back to their land.
 - SO human rights and the court system were not working – once they came up with this new strategy the women's land rights were reinstated faster than the court system could.
 - FIDA takes 200 women a year, but only about 20% are resolved

- Practically speaking the formal crts are not a real solution until corruption stops, and processes are more practical etc.
- We need to ask: are women really living positively with HIV in Kenya, or are they dying unnecessarily?
 - Even as we showcase those living positively, it is also the case that many women are unnecessarily dying form HIV unless we can affirm women's links to their land.
- This will impact our ability to improve MDGs – what are we going to do? There is a need to consciously protect women's rights to own land at all levels, as a specific strategy for reducing children's vulnerability to HIV.
- Even if we want to share responsibilities with men, we must share the justice system as well. Kenya has an opportunity at the moment -> the Constitutional Review is about to happen, the law Reform Commission has called for a review to succession laws/
 - Must not be the responsibility of FIDA alone – every women's org must put this on their agenda: the need to secure property inheritance rights for women.

Grace Maingi – currently ED and head of programmes at FIDA Kenya

- story of why FIDA does what we do.
- Story of woman – HIV+, husband dies, permitted to attend funeral, denied access to land, brothers threatened with machetes told she is "persona non grata" -> how she got to slum. Was told she was not "really" married bc father did not pay the full dowry.
 - She accesses HIV resource center – but she can not challenge the land situation bc the time it will take may jeopardize her ability to care for her children.
- Families are sometimes resistant to pass land on to women esp. if they think she is the one that infected her husband.
- Widow cleansing practice – after husband dies, family takes all possessions and she has to have sex with someone, usually an outcast (without a condom) in order to "cleanse" her.
 - AMREF, NGO in Nairobi – challenging practice of wife cleansing.
- The story of English billboards does not work -> we need to be ingenious about how we get info out there.
 - Protection for disinherited widows is critical, providing avenues for legal redress.

Moderator

- FIDA has now taken mediation involving the UN secretariat – the chief justice has at times called on FIDA to assist with international instruments on these issues.

Discussion:

- Min of Gender in Kenya –
 - Are families and other groups of elders engaged in the ADR processes to make it sustainable?
 - Negotiations with elders were a negotiation process:
 - Widows told FIDA their stories – when met encouraged them to speak in front of council, an idea that was intimidating (they were shaking) but FIDA said they were not going to tell the stories for the women. Once

- they started to tell, women lined up to share their stories.
- When they went before the council – they arranged “sittings” where they would listen to both the families and the widows. Most cases met with success.
 - After the widows get back (family accepting her) then there is an additional step: need to ensure that the women gets title so that 2 years later she is not in the same situation again.
 - FIDA is working on this now – how to do the next step.
 - Need the law to have the woman’s name on the title to the land.
 - When FIDA goes to a region they go to the local commissioner so that when such meetings are being convened the local commissioners and the chiefs are aware that the mtgs are going on.
- How are groups here working together, and what are MPs doing.
 - Collaboration is key – the groups like FIDA have the information that the MPs need, how to shape a motion or a bid to work with the women of Kenya. Need info from the expert groups to represent the women in the way that needs to happen.
 -
 - Cultural transformation must be stable and without stigma.
 - When FIDA goes to rural community the first response is always who are you to speak to our community – every community they go to they have a facilitator who speaks the local language, who facilitates the first meeting. Must take the time to research the culture and the lead people in the community -> it allows people to lead their won transformation.
 - Other ways women disinherited: post-election violence.

www.fidakenya.org

HIV/AIDS: A gendered epidemic - International Association for Feminist Economics; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Mar 6 12:00pm

Alys Willman Commercial Sex, Risky Behaviour and HIV/AIDS in Managua, Nacaragua.

See paper in *Feminist Economics* 14(4), October 2008, 37-65

Olagoke Akintola – Unpaid AIDS Care: Form, Context, and Implications

Home based care is the default mode of care in many countries, incl. southern Africa, where it has become a major issue bc of the prevalence rate.

- gov’t have pushed policies for home based care, but we do not know how cost effective this is.
- Paper questions how cots effective home-based care is.
- Who are the caregivers:
 - Wide age range, from children to elderly
- What services to caregivers provide?

- Usually doing things the person with HIV is not able to do
- Financial costs
 - No studies on outlay of volunteers
 - Sometimes the cost of care exceeds the amount that could be made by working, including doing sex work (!).
- Concl
 - Need better studies for data
 - Need data on volunteer, impact of HBC on agriculture and other security
 - Need to assess difference in quality of life bw hBC and hospital case.

Lanyan Chen – Gendering China’s Strategy for HIV/AIDS

Insite: Impact of Canada's Safe injection on HIV transmission and Treatment: National Council of Women in Canada

March 6

(...presented by a group of MBA students – University of Western On - who organized an independent course on this – they basically have compiled all of the info on the topic and are presenting why Insite is unique in North America – sponsored by Mary Scott, VP of National Council of Women of Canada, linked with the Int’l Council of Women (has ECOSOC status)).

Mary Scott

- the national council of women has been reaching out to young women
- wanted this talk to examine how Insite has reduced HIV transmission

qualification: not here to present an opinion on Insite, just presenting info available

- fed gov’t has threatened to close Insite
- what is Insite?
 - A supervised safe injection facility
 - Have not had any deaths from ODs
 - A way to get drug users into the health care system
- DTES
 - “I personally have never seen anything as depressing as this neighbourhood in my life”
 - “most drug users in that area have hep C”
- objective on Insite
 - was never to get ppl off drugs – its harm reduction
- 4 major objectives: stability to community; reduce transmission; improve overall health of IDUs (note: measuring intervention in transmission rates shows low impact
<http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/MeetingAbstracts/ma?f=102283403.html>); access to counseling and addiction services
- Drug users are concerned about their own safety:
 - Hygienic – also education on safe drug injection practices
 - Safe environment
 - Health benefits: avoid OD, reduce risk of infection, Tx avail for health issues

- Trusting relationships with Insite staff (“a lot of these people don’t have relationships in their lives”)

Vancouver (Tory)

- 3rd largest metro area in Canada, 2.1 million residents
- Insite stakeholders:
 - Insite, city, residents, Van coastal health, Olympic committee
- 4 pillar: prevention enforcement Tx, harm reduction -> HR most closely linked to Insite.
- Angus Reid survey – support Insite? 57% support, 10% undecided, 33% oppose
- Jeff West, program coordinator – “a health clinic for a very sick population that isn’t accessing the health care system at all”
- Scott Thompson, Van Police – multiple arrests does not help the situation.

CDN political system (Charles)

Global agencies and Int’l health perspective:

- rates of IDU worldwide – 10% of HIV result from IDU, 30% if you exclude sub-Saharan Africa.
- Vietnam has one of the highest injection drug use rates.
- US has been opposed to injection drug sites (until recently?) -> has used funding influence to persuade groups to take a stand against safe injection sites.
 - WHO supports harm reduction (but don’t have enough research to support safe injection sites specifically)
 - UNAIDS – recognizes link bw IV drug use and HIV transmission – consider this a health issue.
 - the Int’l Narcotics Board strongly opposed safe injection sites (have issued statement to Canada in the last 2 years that Insite violated Int’l drug treaties).

Results of Insite

- 7648 unique users
- 257, 575 visits annually – 645 visits per day,
- 696 ODs, no fatalities
- 6354 referrals made, 40% to addiction counseling
- etc...
- reduction in public drug use
- 70% reduction in needle sharing amongst high risk users.
- No increase in crime in the area – BUT a reduction in the area (car break ins)
- Saves bw 1.50 and \$4.02 for every dollar spent.
- 15 minutes chillout period always comes with access to counselors
- cost of lifetimes maintenance of HIV: \$500 000 (not at AIDS stage)
- Women and HIV
 - 27% of Insite users are women – women are often “second to the needle” (men inject themselves then the woman).

Notice of Forthcoming Communication