Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Report by Pamela Collett on Afghan Women's Network delegation to the Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference and meetings with NGOs and UN agencies, Washington DC and New York, USA, September 1-16, 1996
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Afghan Women's Network
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Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Summary of Delegation Visit
Executive Summary

This booklet, entitled *Afghan Women's Network Campaign for Peace and Human Rights* contains documents related to the visit of a group of Afghan women from the Afghan Women's Network to the United States in September 1996.

The members of the delegation were Rukhshana Sarwar, Maliha Danish, Palwasha Hassan, Safia Siddiqi, Farida Stanikzai and Pamela Collett, who is an advisor to the Afghan Women's Network.

The purpose of the delegation was to present the views of a group of Afghan women on the peace process and women's human rights in Afghanistan to international human rights and women's organizations and UN agencies and to gain experience and skills in advocacy and networking. The delegation made a presentation at the Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference, *Beyond Beijing* in Washington DC, September 5-8, 1996 and visited UN agencies and NGOs in New York from September 9-16.

The visit was made possible by funding from the Canada Fund for Afghanistan, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Caritas Fund of the Tides Foundation, USA.

While in Washington DC, in addition to participating in the AWID conference, the delegation visited several NGOs and the United States State Department. During the conference, members of the delegation made daily work plans and shared notes on sessions attended. The Afghan Women's Network met with the Asia Pacific Women in Politics and joined their network. They also joined the network of Women Living Under Muslim Laws and the Working Group on Women's Human Rights. In Washington, several organizations and participants commented that this was their first contact with Afghan women. Previous to this contact, their image of Afghanistan was one of warring factions armed with kalashnikovs. They were pleased to learn of the efforts of a group of Afghan women for peace and human rights.

In New York, the Afghan women's delegation attended the one-year anniversary celebration of the Fourth World Conference on Women held at UN headquarters on September 9, 1996. They arranged a series of meetings with UN agencies, NGOs and media during their one-week visit. While in New York, they received favorable comments on their presentations and their well-organized plan to visit as many relevant agencies as possible in a short time. In a meeting with Rosario Green, Special Advisor to the Secretary General, they received a positive response to their proposal that a woman should be on the UN Special Mission for peace in Afghanistan. They followed up the meeting with Green with a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali. In October, the Afghan Women's Network sent a letter to Green reminding her of the importance of having a woman on the peace mission to enable the voices of Afghan women to be heard.
Before the delegation returned to Pakistan, the faction known as the “Taliban” took control of Jalalabad and Kabul. The denial by the Taliban of women’s basic human rights to employment outside the home, to mobility and security, and to women’s and girls’ access to education brought a swift response from the Afghan Women’s Network. Utilizing their newly formed contacts, they made appeals through email to international human rights and women’s organizations around the world to support Afghan women’s and girls’ human rights. Organizations mobilized around the world to write letters, send email messages, faxes and make phone calls in support of Afghan women’s rights to employment, education and security. The UN Secretary General promptly issued a supportive statement on October 7, 1996.

The contacts made by the Afghan Women’s Network plus the program that they put forward for women to participate in the peace process and for guarantees of women’s human rights to employment, education and security were the basis for most of the support statements made during the period following the Taliban takeover of Kabul on September 27, 1996. The October 2, 1996 unity statement of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan was based on this position.

In retrospect, the timing of the Afghan women’s delegation’s visit to the AWID conference and the UN agencies in New York caused it to have a very powerful effect on public opinion and response to the Taliban takeover. Their visit also alerted NGOs and UN agencies of the importance of gender and human rights issues in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Women’s Network has followed up on as many of these contacts as possible but is hindered by a lack of staff, office and funding to make a comprehensive response. The Network has devoted its limited resources to following up contacts and making appeals for support for Afghan women’s and girls’ human rights following the Taliban takeover, leaving little time for planning or proposal writing.

A series of follow up workshops were carried out: two in Peshawar, one in Islamabad. In addition, reports on the Afghan women’s delegation were given at an informal meeting with 18 teachers of Ariana school in Quetta, verbal reports at the October 2 and 30, 1996 meetings of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan, and for the diplomatic community at a dinner at the residence of the Charge d’Affaires of Finland on November 19, 1996. In the follow up workshops, materials from the AWID conference on human rights education and fundraising and proposal writing were shared with Afghan Women Network members. Copies of materials gathered at the AWID conference and from NGOs and UN agencies in New York were distributed at all workshops and meetings.
**Afghan Women's Network**

Comments on the experiences in Washington DC and New York City  
September 1 -16, 1996

Maliha Danish, NRC/NCA, Peshawar:

This was my first experience in an international conference (the Association of Women in Development conference: Beyond Beijing). I learned a lot and now know better how to prepare and what to expect.

Note: Maliha was well prepared and well organized. On the first day of her first workshop in Washington D.C., she passed out her business card and an announcement about our workshop to all participants.

Palwasha Hassan, Afghan Women’s Educational Center, Islamabad:

I was surprised by how accessible people and organizations were in the UN and international NGOs. I didn't expect to meet the number and level of people so easily. We met with some people who were in quite a high level position. People were willing to meet with us and listen to our ideas. I was very pleased about how much support we got for Afghan women’s human rights.

Farida added: We met key people, at AWID, in Washington DC and here in New York.

Farida Stanikzai, DACAAR, Peshawar:

I experienced this visit on two different levels: personally and generally. Personally it was a daily learning experience for me, especially a lesson in management. We spent a lot of time meeting, making plans before meetings, discussing afterwards. All of this planning and meetings were like training workshops for me.

Generally I think that we gave Afghan women a voice. No one had been listening to Afghan women or thinking about them. Now many people and organizations have seen Afghan women working for peace and human rights. We have showed them what we can do. This is a great achievement. Now some organizations are aware of the suffering of Afghan women. The meetings here in New York were very important.

Informally I have also found out about the way of life of Afghans living here by visiting friends and relatives in Washington, D.C. and New York. I can go back to Pakistan and tell Afghans that although people living in the USA might have more facilities, most of them feel tense, stressed, lonely and homesick. The life here is not as attractive as many people in Pakistan and Afghanistan think it is.

Safia Siddiqi, DACAAR, Peshawar:

I learned a lot, directly and indirectly. In the four days of the AWID (Association of Women in Development) conference in Washington I learned more than the week I was
in the NGO Forum in Hairou, China last year. The conference in Beijing was not as well organized as the AWID forum. It was difficult to even find the location of the sessions I wanted to attend. A lot of time was lost looking for places. The AWID conference was also more relevant to our concerns, particularly about Afghan women’s human rights.

We did raise our voices among the 1200 women attending the AWID conference. At least we got this opportunity to raise our voice. We Afghan women were organized. We spoke as a group with one voice. We were heard. Nobody noticed our individual efforts last year while we were in Hairou at the NGO Forum.

New York City was really special. All these meetings during only seven days. It was a big job. I learned a lot. I met so many people. This took a lot of time. If we had been alone as individuals, we could have accomplished nothing at all. I also want to thank Pamela for spending so much time energy and strength to help us organize all these meetings. Now we have more knowledge and a lot more self confidence.

Rukhshana Sarwar, Save the Children (USA), Islamabad:

I wanted to learn and I did. I feel we achieved something. We expressed ourselves about the importance of the involvement of women in the peace process. The Afghan Women’s Network has taken the initiative on this idea. We have shown its effects on the international level, including women in decision making, gender awareness and programming.

I was also disappointed that at Beijing there was nothing about or for Afghanistan. I felt sad about this. But now we could raise our voices for peace and human rights and ask organizations to help us. We have given people the chance to express their solidarity with people in Afghanistan. And we have reached a lot of people through the New York Times, Canadian television as well as throughout the UN.

Pamela Collett, Save the Children (USA), Islamabad:

I was surprised at the supportiveness and the level of interest from UN organizations here in New York. I am delighted that the UN has understood the importance of having a woman on the peace team. This is a great first step. We owe this achievement to the 30,000 women and men who participated in the Beijing conference last year. They raised the issues of women’s participation in decision making and conflict-resolution and put it in the Platform for Action. We did work hard and were well organized but we got such a warm reception because our words echoed the words of Beijing. I was also pleased that even people at a high level were willing to listen to us and learn from what we are saying.

Congratulations to all of you for your excellent work on behalf of the women of Afghanistan.
Afghan Women’s Network: Follow up Plans

At a follow up workshop held in Peshawar on November 28, 1996, the Afghan Women’s Network decided to work with the Women’s Affairs section of ACBAR to plan their future activities. They drafted a proposal for a two day workshop for the Afghan NGO community to be held in Peshawar, February, 1997, following the Eid holiday, on human rights and child rights with emphasis on women’s and girls’ rights.

The Afghan Women’s Network in Islamabad continued their work with children in Afghan schools and held an exhibit of drawings on peace by Afghan children at the Afghan Women’s Education Center, Islamabad on December 1, 1996. Members of the Network also participated in the committee to draft a proposal for the establishment of a Resource Center on Gender and Human Rights and the reorganization of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan. This proposal was submitted to the UN heads of agencies meeting on December 5, 1996.

At a follow up workshop in Islamabad, on December 5, 1996, the Afghan Women’s Network decided to strengthen their organization by becoming an organization with formal membership. They established a membership coordinator and three meeting coordinators. Working in small groups, they decided on three projects for the six month period of January to July 1997.

The three projects chosen by the Network in Islamabad are:

- a schools newsletter on peace and human rights. The newsletter will be divided between suggestions and descriptions of classroom and community activities promoting peace and human rights and children’s drawings, poems and stories about peace and human rights. It will be written in Dari and Pashto and distributed to all the Afghan schools in Islamabad as well as to representative organizations in Peshawar, Quetta, Haripur, Mazar and Kabul.

- a series of workshops for Afghan women on human rights, child rights, school and community activities for peace and human rights and communication skills. Contact will be made with Pakistani women’s organizations as resource persons.

- on going communication with:
  - Afghan community through the schools newsletter
  - International human rights and women’s organizations: send record of decisions of biweekly Network meetings to the following: Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Working Group on Women’s Human Rights, People’s Decade for Human Rights Education, Shirkat Gah (Pakistani women’s resource center in Lahore)
  - UN agencies and embassies: Send copy of meeting record to Resident Coordinator, UNDP, embassies and organizations providing funding for Network activities, including Canada Fund, UNICEF, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Finland and Embassy of the Netherlands.

During the workshop, a draft version of a proposal was prepared, to be completed during the week of December 8, 1996 for submission to funding sources.
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Documents: preparation for delegation visit
Request for funding for presenters of
"Advocacy by Afghan Women for Peace and Human Rights"
at the Association for Women in Development (AWID) conference
"Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action"
September 5 - 8, 1996, Washington, D.C., USA

Background

Afghanistan was rated last among 130 countries in the Gender Development Index and the Gender Empowerment Measure in UNDP's 1995 Human Development Report. Although there was no official Afghan delegation at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, several Afghan women were able to attend the NGO Forum on Women. Since Beijing, these women have been organizing the Afghan Women's Network to advocate for peace and women's human rights. They are also founding members of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan, which is made up of members from UN agencies and NGO's working in Afghanistan. The Afghan Women's Network has focused on three key issues: defending the right of women to work outside the home, women's and girls' rights to education, and including Afghan women in the peace process.

Advocacy by Afghan Women on Peace and Human Rights

Three Afghan women plus an education consultant from Save the Children (USA) submitted a proposal for a panel discussion on women's human rights for the Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference, "Beyond Beijing: from Words to Action", to be held in Washington, D.C., USA, September 5 - 8, 1996. The proposal, which was accepted (AWID reference number 99) is for a panel discussion on women's human rights in Afghanistan. We want to share ideas regarding advocacy and its relationship to development work. We want to develop a network of organizations and individuals interested in supporting Afghan women in their struggle to defend women's human rights and to be included in the peace process. Our presentation at the AWID conference will be the only one concerning Afghan women.

We are developing composite stories of three women's lives: one from Herat, where women are not allowed to work outside the home since the Taliban takeover; one from Kabul of a displaced person, a university professor and widow.
who fled to Mazar when her husband was killed by the mujahadin; and a village woman from Kandahar who has been a refugee for many years in Pakistan. The stories will be accompanied by slides.

To accompany our presentation, we are seeking additional funding to publish a brochure about Afghanistan as explained through the three women’s stories. The brochure would be distributed at the AWID conference to inform those participants who do not attend our presentation and also to UN officials and advocacy organizations in New York. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the brochure could be distributed to UN agencies, NGO’s and donors as background information on the situation for women in Afghanistan.

We are planning to combine participating in the conference with a visit to New York to lobby the United Nations. We are seeking assistance in setting up appointments with high level UN officials regarding women’s human rights in Afghanistan and women’s participation in the peace process, specifically the appointment of a woman to the UN Special Mission which is charged with trying to broker a peace plan among the warring factions. We have spoken with Special Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri (who has since resigned for health reasons) and he encouraged us to lobby to have a woman join the advisory group. A high-ranking woman representative is necessary because otherwise the team has no access to women in traditional society throughout Afghanistan where women are not allowed to speak with men outside their joint extended families.

We want to encourage various UN agencies to give strong support to women’s human rights within Afghanistan. There are currently only three UN women field officers in Afghanistan. We would like to advocate to increase the number of women assigned to work with UN agencies in Afghanistan and in Pakistan (where the heads of agencies are currently located due to the ongoing conflict in Kabul). We want to emphasize the importance of the UN’s support for women’s right to employment outside the home and access of women and girls to education throughout Afghanistan.

Participation by Afghan Women

The visit to New York will give an opportunity for three Afghan women who have never been to the United Nations (none of them had been outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan until they attended the NGO Forum in China) to lobby UN officials and to meet with women’s organizations such as Equality Now and the International Women’s Tribune Center in New York.

Since the NGO Forum on Women in Hairou, in September 1995, these three Afghan women have been very active in working for women’s human rights. They attended and helped co-facilitate a series of workshops for Afghan women on networking and advocacy skills as well as gender awareness and analysis training. Participation in the AWID conference plus lobbying the UN in New York will
greatly increase their skills and their ability to transfer these skills to other Afghan women. The AWID conference and the visit to the UN in New York represent an excellent opportunity for these three women in particular and for Afghan women in general.

Request for Assistance

The women have arranged with their family members so that they can travel to attend the AWID conference and visit the UN in New York. They are working on their presentation, including writing the stories and collecting the slides. What is needed is funding for the visit, for the booklet on the three women's stories and lists of possible contacts and organizations in New York to help set up appointments with relevant officials. Arranging media coverage of their visit to New York would also be helpful.

Attached are profiles of the four women, a proposed budget, plus copies of the AWID proposal. We are willing to accept partial funding from one organization. If your organization cannot consider funding this request or part of it, we would appreciate any suggestions you might have of other funding sources.

Contact person:

Pamela Collett
Education Consultant
Convener of panel discussion for AWID conference "Beyond Beijing"
"Advocacy for Afghan Women for Peace and Human Rights"

fax: ++92-51-279210
email: pam@collet.sdnpk.undp.org
tel (office): ++ 92-51-279212-3
tel (residence): ++ 92-51-279252 (after June 8)

enclosures:
Acceptance letter from AWID Forum Chair
Profiles: conference panelists
Proposed budget: travel and brochure
Profiles of Panelists

Pamela Collett is an education consultant who works for the Pakistan Afghanistan Field Office of Save the Children (USA) in Islamabad. Working with her colleague, Rukhshana Sarwar, she developed a non formal education whose goal is the empowerment of rural Afghan women. At the NGO Forum on Women in China, Pamela and Rukhshana facilitated a workshop on this program. Following the NGO Forum, she increased her efforts to advocate for women’s human rights in Afghanistan. She is a founding member of the Afghan Women’s Network and the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan, which is made up of participants from UN agencies and NGO’s. She has facilitated gender planning and analysis training for UN agencies and NGO’s and a series of workshops on communication and leadership skills for Afghan women.

Rukhshana Sarwar is an education officer for Save the Children (USA) in Islamabad, Pakistan. Working with Pamela Collett, she developed a non formal education program for rural Afghan women and co-facilitated a workshop on this program at the NGO Forum on Women in China. Inspired by the women she met at the NGO Forum, she helped establish the Afghan Women’s Network in Islamabad. She is a member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan. She co-facilitated many workshops on gender and on communication and leadership skills for Afghan women. Until 1992, she was a professor of English at the University of Kabul. The war in Afghanistan destroyed her former life, when her husband was killed and her home was hit by rockets. She is working to have women included in the peace process in Afghanistan.

Palwasha Hassan is the director of an Afghan NGO, called the Afghan Women’s Education Center, which is based in Islamabad, Pakistan. With the help of her all-Afghan female staff, she is running educational and skills training programs for children, adolescents, adult and elderly Afghan women, as well as a secondary school for girls and boys. Gaining from the experiences of the NGO Forum on Women and the Beijing Young Leaders Program (sponsored by Caritas), she started an Afghan Women’s Network with the cooperation of other women. She is a member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan. She has co-facilitated several workshops on gender, and on communication and leadership skills for Afghan women.

Maliha Danish is a program officer for Norwegian Church Aid/Norwegian Refugee Council (NCA/NRC) working with Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan and in Afghanistan. Originally from Kabul, where she taught English at Kabul University and UNESCO, in 1992 due to heavy fighting between the warring factions, she and her family had to flee Kabul. In Peshawar, she has worked for Afghanistan Drug Council and Rehabilitation Program, sponsored by the UN and the Austrian Relief Committee for Afghans. She has co-facilitated many workshops for Afghan women, including women’s role in drug awareness and abuse prevention, gender awareness and strengthening communication and leadership skills. She is a member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan and is working with other Afghan women in Peshawar to form a network of Afghan women to work for peace and human rights in Afghanistan.
The theme of the 1996 Association for Women in Development (AWID) Forum features progress toward implementation of the Platform for Action from the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women 1995. The 1996 Forum will focus on broader and development issues that were addressed at the UN Conference and the NGO Forum in Huairou, and assess progress made toward implementation at all levels.

AWID Forum brings together practitioners, policymakers and academics from around the world in a "dialogue," to examine actions and strategies that enable women to improve the quality of their lives and to achieve equality in society.

The 1996 Forum brings this tradition to the consideration of progress in the year since 20,000 participants in the NGO Forum gathered in Huairou, China and over 3,000 delegates and 2,000 NGO representatives at the UN Conference in Beijing deliberated and approved the Platform for Action.

AWID is involving young women in the planning of the 1996 Forum, recognizing the value of an intergenerational approach to implementation of the Platform.

A twenty-person International Program Planning Committee has been formed to review applications for presentations, workshops and panel discussions. The Program Committee is seeking proposals from all regions of the world to meet the following goals:

- to provide an opportunity for participants to give status reports on progress toward implementation of the Platform for Action and the country commitments, and learn of progress worldwide;
- to share information about education and advocacy efforts that have been effective, and to learn from failures as well as successful activities;
- to urge practitioners, policymakers and academics to consider how they can be assisted in the perspective and approach of each other and to develop cross-discipline strategies when possible;
- to build skills in advocacy, fundraising, media, use of research data and other organization-building techniques.
- to strengthen collaborative relationships with other organizations — regional as well as sectoral — that share AWID's goals and principles by working with Collaborating Partners to plan the agenda of the AWID 1996 Forum.

Collaborating Partners are networks, coalitions or advocacy groups from different regions of the world and represent different issues and diverse approaches. They have volunteered to offer sessions at the AWID Forum, to urge their members and supporters to attend the Forum, and to help raise money to bring their participants to the Forum.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Sixty opportunities for workshops, panels, roundtable discussions and learning opportunities will address the spectrum of issues that make up the Platform for Action. Sessions are up to two hours long. Four major plenary sessions will feature key themes from the Beijing Conference:

1. Women and Human Rights
2. Globalization and the Economy
3. Powerlessness and Political Participation
4. Health and Reproductive Rights

Pre-Forum seminars and sessions are possible for groups that plan to bring together their own members, leaders or activists prior to participating in the Forum. AWID will assist with arrangements.

- facilitate learning across geographic regions related to some issue addressed at the UN Conference (e.g. climate, violence, gender, health, rights, power-sharing);
- offer skills needed for effective action to implement policy change, or reach the general public with educational messages.

All sessions will consider how practitioners, policymakers and academics can be assisted by the perspective and expertise of each other. Attention to intergenerational perspectives, experiences and concerns will receive special consideration.

Individuals submitting proposals will have their suggestions matched with other proposals of a similar nature to construct sessions.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

All presenters and co-presenters will be required to pay conference registration fees. Registration fee waivers or discounts for program co-presenters and presenters are not available. AWID is committed to raising funds in support of overseas participants, and participants working at the community level in North America. AWID will also assist Forum participants in raise funds locally. Those who are eligible for financial assistance and whose presentations are selected, will be contacted by AWID to determine financial need and potential sources of funding.

Presenters and workshop organizers are strongly encouraged to begin to identify funding through their own resources and contacts. Joint proposals for travel expenses are also possible. AWID will make every attempt to provide assistance to participants in raising funds to cover travel and other expenses to attend the 1996 Forum. However, AWID can make no guarantee that funds will be available.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Proposals should be submitted by March 1, 1996 on a Presentation Proposal Form to:

Kuen Millhausen
AWID Forum Program Chair
AWID
1511 K Street, NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20005 USA

Tel: (202) 463-0180
Fax: (202) 463-0182
Email: awid@igc.apc.org

**AWID MISSION**

The Association for Women in Development is an international membership organization which works to redefine development with women's perspectives. The Association promotes research, policy and practice to fully engage women in building a just and sustainable development process.
to: The Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan

from: Pamela Collett

subject: Report on Afghan Women Advocacy project in Washington DC and New York

We are pleased to report to the Advisory Group that our proposal to participate in the Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference: Beyond Beijing, Sept 4-8 in Washington D.C. and a visit to the UN to talk with UN agencies and human rights organizations has been funded by UNICEF, UNDP, the Caritas Fund of the Tides Foundation (USA) and the Canada Fund for Afghanistan. In addition, Farida Stanizkai submitted a separate proposal and was funded by UNICEF.

The team going to Washington and New York is made up of Maliha Danish, Palwash Hassan, Rukhshana Sarwar and myself. Farida Stanizkai will join us wherever possible.

At the suggestion of Maliha, we have decided to make this project part of a general Afghan Women’s Campaign for Peace and Human Rights. The three goals of this campaign are

- Urge the United Nations to recruit a qualified woman to be on the team of the Special Mission for Peace in Afghanistan.

- Ensure that guarantees of women’s basic human rights are included in any interim peace agreements. These rights are:
  - The right to employment outside the home.
  - The right to security. Women should not be harassed nor forced to wear uniform clothing.
  - The right of women and girls to equal access to education.

International donors should require guarantees of women’s human rights before contributing funds for rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan.

- Provide training in leadership, advocacy and networking skills for Afghan women and increase their access to information about struggles for peace and human rights throughout the world.

This campaign will be discussed with the Afghan Women’s Network in Peshawar, Islamabad, and Mazar. Information should be sent to Kabul and Jalalabad. If there is agreement, the goals of this campaign should be the focus of work for the next several months.
Brochure

For this campaign we have prepared a brochure which will be ready on Tuesday August 27. We will send copies to UNDP to be distributed to all Advisory Group members and all gender focal points and technical working groups. A one page summary of the information in the brochure is attached. In addition, we have used information about women’s lives in Afghanistan to write three stories of women from different regions: Herat, Kandahar and Mazar.

Presentation at AWID conference

Our presentation at the AWID conference is in three parts. The first part is reading the stories of the three women from different regions of Afghanistan. These stories will be accompanied by slides of the regions. Palwahsa is facilitating this part.

The second part summarizes the advocacy work of the past year by the Advisory Group and the Afghan Women’s Network. Rukhshana is facilitating this part.

The third part explains the three goals of the Afghan Women’s Campaign for Peace and Human Rights and will ask for suggestions and contacts among those attending the presentation. Maliha is facilitating this part.

Pamela Collett is the convener of the presentation and has made the travel arrangements and the contacts in Washington D.C. and New York. She is responsible for the overall report on the AWID conference and the visit to New York. Maliha and Palwasha are responsible for reports on follow up workshops.

Contacts

While in the United States on personal leave in July, Pamela tried to make as many contacts possible among women’s and human rights organizations. The following is a summary of those contacts.

Washington D.C.

Sima Wali: Refugee Women in Development:
Lea Browning, Chair: Working Group on Human Rights of Women
Kim Hunter, Asia Foundation, Women in Politics Network
Regan Ralph, Human Rights Watch Women’s Rights Project
Sameena Nazir, International Human Rights Law Group
Jill Merrick, International Center for Research on Women
Hibaaq Osman: Fund for Peace

Palwasha is checking with the US Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Joe Novak, Political Affairs Officer for Afghanistan, to try to arrange a meeting with the US State Department.
New York

Surita Sandoshom: Equality Now
Felice Gaer: Blaustein Institute
Barbara Apple: International League for Human Rights
Susana Fried, Center for Women’s Global Leadership
Berit Collett, Quaker UN office
Ann Walker, International Women’s Tribune Center (ITWC)
Pamela Saffer, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Beverlee Bruce, IRC, Women’s Division

UN:
Linda Perkin, Deputy Director W. Asia Div, Dept of Political Affairs
M. Kawabata, UN Special Mission, 963-5285
Kristen Timothy, Deputy Dir, Division for the Advancement of Women
UNICEF
Misrak Elias, Senior Advisor, Women’s Development program
Marilyn Dawson, Programme Officer, Asia Section
Gulbadan Habibi, Project officer, Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances
on the phone: Hans Narula (retiring, pleased with feedback on UNICEF decision)
UNIFEM: Ana Maria Brasilero, office being reorganized, contact in September

Media:

Washington:
NPR Foreign Desk, Mid East Editor, Joyce Davis, 202-414-2291 (phone) 202-414-3026 (fax)

New York:
NYTimes, Barbara Crossette, 935-8165
WBAL, 505 8th Ave, 19th Fl NY Laura Flanders 633-6700 ext. 303, 343-2353 (home)Patricia
Dallas, 279 0707 ext 145
UN, Diane Bailey, 212-963-6977 (o) 348-5559 (h)
I was interviewed for the UN radio program on women.

Follow Up

Pamela Collett will prepare a follow up report on the visit to Washington DC and New
York. Workshops to report on the visit and to discuss the implications of the visit will be
organized by Palwasha and Maliha with assistance from Farida and Rukhshana.
Workshops will be held in Islamabad, Peshawar, Mazar, Kabul and Jalalabad.
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Washington DC: meetings and AWID conference
Notes on Meetings in Washington DC, Sept. 3, 1996

Procedure: daily planning meetings: a.m. and pm. Assignment of responsibilities: speaker and note taker at each meeting. Daily report writing, listing of materials

Meeting at Human Rights Watch:
Regan Ralph and Patricia Gossman


Suggestions:
- exchange information and cases of human rights violations to HRW and other related organizations
- meet with US Congress Committee on Human Rights: Regan will supply names/contacts. Palwasha will follow up
- Start networking with the Pakistani organizations working on HR issues. Meet Farida Shahid (Lahore), Women living under Muslim Laws, share information about common concerns.

- HR Watch activities include: urgent action, networks, protection of activists, raising profile in international fora, congressional committee

If there are any threats or attacks on any women activists, contact HRW immediately. They can activate an international network to raise the issue with the appropriate authorities.

Example given of specific HRW intervention in Rwanda: criticize investigation of sexual violence in Rwanda

Contacts:
Farida Shahid: Women living under Muslim Laws, Lahore
Women Law and Development, Marge Schuler: called, part of workshops on Wednesday. contact later in the week
Washington Post: Ken Cooper
Australia: Judith Gardham, Hilary Charlesworth: laws of war do not reflect women’s needs Response lacking regarding women’s experience of war
US Congress: will send list (Sent one name, given to Palwasha for follow up)

Strategy: call for Women’s focal point in UN: where? Development or political side?
UNDP: two gender specialists: program side
NEED gender focal point: political side. Not just a woman on peace team. Need to strengthen statement: gender focal point facilitate Afghan women’s participation in the peace process, listen to Afghan women, met with them, ensure that their voices are heard
Sima Wali, Refugee Women in Development, met at Creative Associates International office

Introduction
Change in her organization: from working with refugees in USA to women overseas, previously working with refugee women in US.
Need: equitable partnership between women in the North and South
Civil society is built on pluralism, developing democracy can't be taught
Donors: share power with women themselves
Questions are being asked: development has failed. Where is democracy?

Forced migration: 50 million people 80% women and children

Provide training and skills buildings
Build coalitions, locally regionally internationally
Issue of Human Rights is on agenda of politicians

She is developing a Proposal for training for women: Palestine, Lebanon, Morroco, Pakistan, (would include Afghan women living in Pakistan)
Provide training and skills buildings for potential leaders among women living in Muslim countries
Concentrate on: Women’s organizations, who are NGO’s
series of trainings on role of NGO sector: how does it work in a civil society?
proposal: provide general training then targeted for specific needs
Each group: training manual

3 year plan  Proposed Starting Date, Spring 1997

She suggested: Afghan women need links with Pakistani women: need to pursue
Contacts:
Global Fund for Women Julie Shaw
Asia Foundation
World Bank: Humaira Nassery, 202-458-7353, writing book on Refugee Women and Human Rights

Roberta Chew  (Ladd Connell left after a few minutes) US State Department
She wants specific information on human rights violations in Afghanistan. She noted that the Taliban had given them information that she could not verify: number of schools, children in schools, girls attending schools. We noted that girls are not attending schools in Taliban areas (except Ghazni) to our knowledge although there are clandestine classes in people’s homes.

We suggested she contact Angela Kearney, Save the Children UK for information on Herat, Gulalai Habib for information on Kandahar and The Norwegian Refugee Council for information on Jalalabad.
She urged the Afghan Women’s Network to develop a working relationship with the US Embassy in Islamabad and the consulate in Peshawar and give them specific information about human rights violations. She noted a lack of information about human rights by US State Department. We suggested they contact the Cooperation Council of Afghanistan, an Afghan NGO, based in Peshawar, working on human rights’ documentation. The US State Department wants feedback on their Human Rights reports. Next one on Afghanistan to be released in Feb. 1997.

Chew used a narrow definition of human rights, that focused on rape and violence. Taliban had come recently to meet with her. She emphasized an “even handed” approach to the Taliban, saying that women were “safer” in their regions, that they had established “law and order”. We pointed out that women are not secure in Taliban areas, that they had no mobility and were forced to stay at home. We also said that in the Kandahar area the authorities had closed the women’s nursing school which they had originally agreed to open. We gave her examples of the treatment of women in Herat, Kandahar and Jalalabad.

Chew differentiated between “punishment”, that is, the Taliban cutting off hands for theft and hanging for murder, and human rights violations. We noted that this type of “punishment” cannot be acceptable when there are no human rights to legal representation and no law, just summary decisions by self-appointed Talibs.

Chew discussed possible strategies for ending the fighting. She noted that all the groups are immersed in fighting, that it is a way of life and they have no motivation to quit. She suggested a UN arms embargo as one strategy to put pressure on the factions.

We talked about Save the Children USA’s non formal education program as one way of helping women to organize themselves for peace. We gave the example of the mother in a refugee camp in Balochistan who persuaded her son to stop fighting with the Taliban. We suggested that the UN and other groups should talk with those people who are interested in peace instead of only those who are making war. Why talk only with military factions when they don’t want peace?

We said the every UN and US government mission should include a woman member and should make an effort to speak with women in Afghanistan. Women should be part of the peace process and should be encouraged to participate. We noted another strategy to consider would be no rehabilitation or development assistance without guarantees for women’s basic human rights to employment outside the home, education and security.
AWID conference: Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action
Report on sessions held September 5, 1996

Plenary Session: Women's Human Rights

President's introduction:
Goal of AWID: working for just and sustainable development process. Redefine development with women at the core of development

Charlotte Bunch: Center for Women's Global Leadership
What Beijing meant: statement to world about women's movement and its determination, and visibility. Greatest number of participants, more grassroots participation that any other UN conference. Northern American and European identified itself as a region for the first time as part of the regional process not an elite group above all others.

Issues: role of women is central to the debates around the world among anti feminist anti women forces, particular in the issues of state power and religion. The questions raised by women are the questions facing the twenty first century: questions of power and of participation by people who are not heard. Women represent the dispossessed. Therefore they are a big threat and there is great resistance to their movement.
The debate at Beijing over the word gender shows the power of these terms and the changes that are happening.

Beijing represents a possibility especially in the area of women's human rights. Women's human rights are on the agenda but the terms can be used without action. Women need to ask decision makers do you understand what it means to say women’s rights are human rights?

All issues carry the fundamental question of women's human rights. If take the declaration of the fundamentals of the universal declaration of human rights seriously we should think about what could happen. the Beijing Platform of Action is the manifesto for the twenty first century.

Women in the sphere of political understanding are claiming these issues as fundamental rights of being human as DEMANDS. They are universal, inalienable, not debatable, universal rights, not subject to nation, culture, etc. The debate is how to realize these rights which are about WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN.

Governments fear creating new human rights, but what is new is the understanding of what it means to have these rights. Human Rights framework: tools: human rights conventions, committees, Rapporteurs. We must demand accountability of government and world organizations. Now violence against women accepted as an issue. We will not tolerate violence against women in the family, the community or the nation. We must take these gains and shape our strategies.
NGO Forum opportunity for UN to hear from civil society. Challenge now is the follow up. Women are a global force for change. This is the possibility. Now we have to realize that possibility.

Purificacion Quisumbing: Center for Human Rights, UN, New York City
spoke about UN role for supporting Women's human rights. She said that there were few women in UN at the decision making levels.
She noted the importance of women participating in the process of review of the UN structure. Women need to crack open the Security Council; they need to work for democratization and decentralization of UN human right bodies. They should not be located only in developed countries: New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Mahnaz Afkhami, Sisterhood is Global:
Culture is dynamic changes over time. Traditional culture wants women to be silent but has not itself been silent about women. Some cultural values should be changed. No one condones burning witches as “cultural norms”. Women encounter so much opposition because their role is a fundamental part of culture. WE have to ask which parts of culture are used to maintain power an privilege. All development is multicultural especially in the global south. Improvements in women’s status bring resistance. In every society there are different views. There are 1/2 billion women in the Muslim world. Modernity means conflict.

Purpose of struggle for women’s human rights, must challenge women’s niche in society, challenge the fundamentalist discourse and reclaim our religious heritage. Quoted Mohammed who said that all people are equal as equal as the teeth of a comb, including men and women. We must see our religion through women’s eyes. Cultural change is a common requirement in every society. Problem: women in the Muslim world are not allowed into schools of higher religious learning. They need to be there so they can learn and debate about the meaning of religion.

Sisterhood is Global is working in the area of human rights education.

Florence Butegwa, WILDAF, Uganda:
Rights to development, economic and known in the US. Hod human rights, could help stop violation in their name around the world. US public is ignorant, apathetic, and misled by media. Goal: women should know their human rights and monitor their OWN human rights situation. social rights are included in the UN conventions. Human rights are powerful tool but have not brought change for most women. We need clarity on what should states do in areas of food, health and employment. We see human rights as part of development.

Loretta Ross: Human Rights Education Institute, Atlanta, Georgia, USA: right to know what her human rights are. If US public understood human rights could stop violations in their name all around the world. US public is ignorant, apathetic and misled by the media. Goal: women should know their human rights and monitor their OWN human rights situation. 50 years of human rights activity not know in US. Human rights education is revitalizing the women's movement. Receiving a very positive response. women want this information. Don't wait for permission or funding. focus on young women. Human rights can transform
the twenty first century just like democracy did the twentieth century. Human rights can address and heal fissures of race and class. Everybody has the same human rights. Nobody gets to vote on whether you have human. Local government are making decisions about women. Human Rights questionnaire of local officials running for office what do you know about the Beijing platform of Action?

The Gender Dimension of Participatory Development attended by Maleha Danish

Miranda Munro World Bank spoke about participatory research on poverty reduction between World Bank and partners, mostly carried out in Africa. Found many women in poverty and that the poor cannot get rich. PRA used as a visual tool for problem identification.

Pat Ellis, gender specialist with experience in the Caribbean. She considers women an important element in development and sustainability of projects. She spoke about the following factors:
• methodology: should be participatory, participation of community in all parts of development
• intervention and orientation strategy
• types and ranges of activities: research, non formal education.

The community and ordinary people get confidence. Non formal education provides them the skills they need. She insisted on participation of community in very early stage which is research and needs assessment. Through all stages participation is very important.

Tony Beck  institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia Canada. Outline of his speech was:
1. the political nature of indicators and participation in their production
2. What are gender sensitive indicators
3. The importance of qualitative indicators
4. Indicators of participation. In the case of women much more quantitative rather than qualitative indicators were found.

Strategies for Girls’ Education attended by Rukhsana Sarwar
three panelists from Arab countries talked about girls education in Egypt and Morocco.

• among all Arab countries the rate of illiteracy is high. Yemen and Kuwait has lower rate.
• reasons why girls drop out of school: gender discrimination, early marriage, work at home, lack of confidence
• barrier of why girls can’t get education: effect of media, TV soap opera (in Morocco) because the parents do not allow girls to continue secondary education because the girls will become like the women shown on the media

Women Education and Empowerment
attended by Palwasha Hassan

Jamaica: The need is for technical education for women to empower women in economic life.
Nepal: Literacy rate is tied to empowerment overall in the country. Literacy program help women examples: women in literacy program had more self confidence. Before we were running when we saw some man wearing some suite now not afraid to talk to ministers. Strategically their position has changed they can go out they can communicate with men.

USAID in Bangladesh: strategy partnering with the government. overall information database in Bangladesh changes in literacy rate.

**Information and Power**, attended by Maleha Danish
Presenter from Jamaica working with rural women mentioned the importance of information sharing towards improving life. Information can be power for women.

Next speaker from Papua New Guinea spoke about the problems of lack of access to information, lack of communication media. Case study of a 7 year old girl married to a 27 year old man who was mad. The girl had no rights. Trying to get her government to establish a develop for women. women need leadership and awareness training.

Third speaker from Uruguay discussed using information for different purposes: political power etc. but she uses it for education.

**Engendering Institutions: Strategies on Changing Development Organizations**
attended by Pamela Collett

Patricia Martin, USAID
Major issue in development: lack of empowerment of women. Need to reduce gender disparities for greater impact of development. Use both gender integrated strategy as in Bangladesh and gender led strategy in Nepal. With a gender led strategy empowerment of women is one of the main objectives of the development aid. Nepal working on literacy and legal reform.
In all programs, use disaggregated data, showing numbers of girls and women involved. Latin American and Caribbean section: Annual Performance Review includes attention to gender. 57% action plans of 1992 include some attention to gender. increased to 94% by 1996 (but did not explain “attention to gender” nor discuss results of these plans).

Suzanne Kindervatter: InterAction: 150 member organizations only 4 women’s organizations.

2 approaches to organizational change

1984-93 Sub committee on WID
- Women’s network
- importance of women in senior positions
- education/ consciousness raising
- strategy: influence attitudes

1994 Committee on Advancement of Women
- Gender network: relational issues
- how organizational systems and processes are obstacles to change
Subcommittee on WID:
main activities: workshops with CEO's board members, information sharing under the assumption that when informed would lead to changes at home in in field.
After five or six years of workshops few changes in programs or organizations

Executive committee created commission on advancement of women with a stronger mandate. For Beijing, high participation of Interaction, over 1/2 agencies involved 40 agencies sent total of 200 people. more members aware and concerned.

Stronger strategy: political incentives motivate change in organization. Major tools: developed own platform for action, also annual award for organizations making progress in field programs, internal policies especially personnel and best practice. Developed how to tools and techniques for gender integration, helped organizations develop gender policy and integrate gender training into programs in field.

Issues and Insights:
• Changing programs versus changing organizations: sequence:
• more receptivity program side but policy and personnel more resistant. encountered deeply held assumptions
• Link to diversity racial and ethnic mechanism for gender
• Nurturing allies and change agents
• sectoral segregation: negative side of post Beijing "We did women"

Aruna Rao, BRAC
Discussed overlap of gender, organizational change and program quality.
Experiment in BRAC, a social service organization for poor people in Bangladesh: needs assessment from workshops with 400 staff members showed a need to encourage people to speak up surfacing of silent voices in safe environment. Staff of BRAC is overwhelming male.
Findings of needs assessment workshops:
• findings based on numbers not impact
• standard operating procedure stronger than social change
• high handed supervision
• culture of silence
• women had to become like men to succeed

Field based action learning program
3 components
• field based action learning program, identify own problems work as a team
• develop internal cadre of change agents
• close links with management to negotiate specific strategy for change

What happened?
• improved working relations and communication
• spill over effect on program
• democratizing of relations
• improved work/family balance, spent more time with family
• staff gained skills in problem identification

What did not happen?
• little focus on village women
more on issues in management and decision making
• where was gender? not addressed
AWID conference: Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action
Report on sessions held September 6, 1996

7 a.m.: Advances by Afghan Women for Peace and Human Rights
Impossible time of day, poor attendance (about 12 people), marginalized our presentation, first time that Afghan women had made a presentation about peace and human rights in any international conference. Workshop well received: power of women’s stories in presentation not only to describe present situation but also to indicate future possibilities. Suggestion from participant: narrow down discussion about what is to be done. Made contacts with Women’s Commission for Refugees of IRC, and Women Living under Muslim laws. Suggestions from participants: connect with Afghan women living abroad for support, connect with Pakistani women’s organizations, especially those who have participated in Global Leadership Training Institute held annually by Global Center for Women’s Leadership.

Plenary: Globalization and the economic empowerment of women
Panel: Noeleen Heyzer UNIFEM
Diane Elson University of Manchester
Lisa McGowan 50 Years is Enough USA
Lourdes Beneria, Cornell University USA
Pregs Govinder, Member of Parliament South Africa
Vandana Shiva, Third World Net, INDIA

Vandana Shiva: free trade policy designed for the benefit of the North to take advance of the South, economically in terms of not only controlling their exports but also their domestic products.
Pregs Govinder spoke of women in South Africa.

Lisa McGowan spoke of the World Bank and that the loans are gender biased. Her organizations is working to bring public attention to the World Bank, particularly with a focus on gender. They d developed economic literacy education to give awareness to women so that they could use these loans. They are working to increase bank investments in women’s health services, education, employment and agriculture.

Women’s Leadership and Political Participation
attended by Rukhshana Sarwar.
Panelists: Manjusree Sen, The Women’s Center USA
Sumali Ray Ross, center for development and population activities, USA
Bisi O Adeley-Fayemi, Akina Mama Wa Afrika, UK
Ilaben Dave, CEDPA, INDIA

Due to gender discrimination, poverty, male domination, lack of education, social cultural and religious constraints, women’s political participation and advocacy is too low. The panelists talked about women in India that 8% of the parliamentary seats are held by women. CEDPA is working in rural areas to promote leadership among rural women. They are training youth for
leadership and political positions through adult literacy, income generation programs and loans.

**Women's Education: Strategizing for the Future**
attended by Palwasha Hassan

panelists
Dora Mwalwenje, University of Illinois, USA
Nilufer Rahman, Directorate of Non Formal Education, Bangladesh
Wahyu Emaningsih, Women's Study Center, Indonesia
Nurlina Tarmizai, Women's Study Center, Indonesia

Three of the panelists were from the government sector in Malawi, Indonesia and Bangladesh. They talked about what steps their governments have taken to increase the low literacy rate, giving different reasons such as economics, culture and gender bias as the reasons which kept women in the lowest literacy rate in their countries. With the help of NGO's changes have been made. Changes include the revision of the lesson materials, making them more gender sensitive, primary schools were free and compulsory and in some countries stipends were introduced because girls and boys were involved in income earning for the families. Girls who get pregnant are allowed to continue their education.

**Women's Human Rights Education**
attended by Maleha Danish

Panelists:
Linda Gray MacKay, Unitarian Universalist Service Comm USA
Rita Maran, University of California at Berkeley USA
Neila Sancho Liao, Asian Women Human Rights Counci, Philippines
Krishanti Dharmaraj, Women's Institute for Leadership, USA
\Nancy Flower, Amnesty International USA

Rita Maran introduced her human rights training materials and methods. Some exercises from the book Gender Justice were practiced by the participants. She started with the comparison of the definition of gender vs sex, then the article on Look at the World Through Women's Eyes. She also gave a review of the historical movement of women from 1945-95.

The second speaker was Neila Sancho who spoke about women's human rights violations in the Philippines by Japanese soldiers of rape and sex slavery which was being revealed after 50 years. She also explained her activities in the Human rights Council and what they do to educate women about their human rights. She said that women are getting self esteem and feel that someone is there to listen to them. They start their education with their own women's human rights violations and link it with the importance of training and education which leads to empowerment.
Changing Roles of NGO's Promoting Women at the United Nations
attended by Pamela Collett
panelists:
Irene Tinker, University of California Berkeley JSA
Kristen Timothy, United Nations,
Anne Walker, International Women's Tribune Centre, Australia
Rosalind Harris CONGO, USA
Woman from Kenya who works with WEDO

Irene Tinker in her introduction noted the explosion of NGO's globally and this has also effected how the UN responds to NGO's. Government are concerned with their sovereignty and sometimes see NGO's advocacy as a threat. NGO's are global peoples' organizations

Rosalind Harris, CONGO or congress of NGO's established in 1948 as a trade union of NGO's, who have a formal relationship with the UN: help them understand how to work with the UN system
Since 1970 CONGO has become more proactive
1972 Stockholm conference on the environment through Habitat June 1996
series of conferences that have changed global understanding of aspects of development. Conferences are no longer the exclusive domain of foreign governments and particularly foreign service officer as the only actors on the UN stage. NGOs decided to open up UN stage to civil society. 11 forums held with UN conferences run by NGO community, cooperate with UN, cooperate with host country who agreed to provide facilities for NGOs included interpreters. NGOs responsible raise money, planning logistics.

Anne Walker, beginnings of IWTC in Mexico City women's conference in 1975
the Tribune, reply to requests get info out to them. connecting information to power.
Noted that the UN is a government club. NGOs at UN powerful force
NGOs made 1975 the International Year of Women
IWTC is a network of networks
early 1990's whole series of world conferences under leadership of Boutros Boutros Ghali
1992 Rio on Environment
1993 Vienna Human Rights
1994 Cairo on Population
1995 Copenhagen Social Summit
1995 Beijing Women
Prep con meetings: linkage: tried to stop government from slipping back on promises made at previous four conferences
Democratizing the UN: a conference held in US\attended one meeting of UN officials, all men made no mention of women. “When doors close in the UN the concerns of women are still not there”

Kristen Timothy, AWID, Division for Advancement of Women
women on the insides/bureaucracy don’t always know where to push when issues come up
Did not come to UN as a feminist, but her American boss calling her “baby” made her
become a feminist
Critical moment now for UN: institutional change

Resource books:
women, Politics and UN, Ann Winslow Ed greenwood Press
1993 Human Development Report: UNDP Role of NGOs

Sea change: relationship of NGOs and UN
Democratizations of societies that is occurring reflected in UN
UN responds and reflects what's going on.
Power relations in chaos around the world, therefore in the UN also
Emergence of civil societies around the world
Growing appreciation of the role of NGOs
Globalization of activities, people, travel, information
UN: deal with cross border issues, if allowed to do so by governments

UN as a bureaucracy which is an organization with a hierarchical way of structuring activities
cannot work effectively at the grassroots level. UN must be a partner of NGOs
NGOs more efficient use of resources for grassroots
1992 13% development assistance to NGOs
second only to bilateral donors
more money goes to NGOs than UN
India 25 % external aid goes to NGOs

But
NGOs limitations:
? Access to productive resources: examples: credit to women
? lack sustainable impact
? only local level
? can't replace government, often in opposition to government

From relief shift to community development and empowerment: systemic change
NGOS working to reform UN
As NGOs emerged in developing countries
NGOs working coalitions, networks, clusters
NGOS participate in work of UN
Real long term work of UN has been based on women's organizations
Women's organizations didn't demand enough of their rights.
They need to develop special relationship with the UN
NGO have a defined relationship with ECOSOC
? will UN which is the club of government admit NGOs?
Do NGOs represent constituencies?
Financial crisis at UN: UN cannot serve NGOs without money
Women's groups recognize what UN has done and are supporters of the UN
Litha Musyumi Ogana, Nairobi Kenya, Family Life Promotion and Services, member of a WEDO cluster involved with monitoring of promises made at Cairo Summit
Encouraged participation of NGOs in government delegation involved in UN process
Go back home, what we learned at UN conferences use with own government
Monitoring role of NGOs, ICPD (Cairo) six months later at the Social Summit at Copenhagen, governments trying to remove text on reproductive health.
She was familiar with ICPD documents and the process. NGOs able to keep language in. NGOs carry all UN documents with them to be prepared.

From relationship with WEDO learned how to participate.

TIPS
• Can’t do it from New York, must democratize
• organize mobilize and coordinate = need focal points
• documentation - governments want clear documents
• ability to sustain a process: can you sustain what you are doing? Can you accept diversity?

Very empowering process
in UN documents at conferences, most of the language came from NGOs
Need to quote these documents to government

**Cultural and Religious Fundamentalism**
Mahnaz Afkhami, Sisterhood is Global, USA, Chairperson
Fundamentalism is a reaction to change to modernity.
Rapid change, which people can’t deal with. It is political in nature. Religion as a political weapon. Not limited to any region or any religion.

Women are at the center of attention of all fundamentalist discourse. Women represent contradictory forces in modern life. Relations the family, at the center are women.

Fundamentalists are concerned with the status quo, with an imagined past.
In itself fundamentalism is a modern movement. Its strategies are a very modern phenomenon.

Boutheina Cheriet, The Brookings, Institute, USA, originally from Algeria.
Fundamentalism is movement of religious obedience, which is growing in the shade of the nation state.
It is based on the ambiguity of the male elite - cultural religions and gender.
she compared the Christina right with Islamic fundamentalists both represent the ambiguity of the nation state and the male elites over issues such as reproductive rights.

1960’s and 70’s Algeria was progressive. Women were in the public realm. National elites coopted women. Private realm of family, problematic in 1984 with establishment of negative
personal policy of the family code in Algeria.

Two voices from the movements of the early 80’s: fundamentalism and feminism: response to ambiguities of the state in early 80’s.

Articulate their claims around the family code. Complete control of women although t NOT. Shari’a

Code: women have no rights as decision makers; no right to marriage, divorce, children under seven (more severe than Sharia).

No discussion of Shari’a today although in 9-12th century four different theological schools held non stop debate during the empire. No debate in modern states.

1988 “specific socialism” ambiguous, but rejected Marxism for “Islamic” communitarianism.

No participation by social actors. Elites decided everything by technocratic types. Fundamentalist movement belong to specific history, identified with historical process on global scene vs exploitative dominate West. Appeals especially to the young including young omen. Ambiguous attitude of the state towards enfranchisement of women. “Islamic” women are addressed as active participants as ummah and part of Islamic nation.

Young women use this ideology against misogyny of fathers and brothers. Stand up as believers. Adoption of Islam to local culture. Berbers in North Africa ignored women’s rights in early Islam, for example the right of women to inherit.

Fundamentalism is part of history of ambiguity of nation state regarding full enfranchisement of women.

Frances Kissling, Catholic for a Free Choice, USA

Religion is back on the agenda at the UN conferences in Cairo and Beijing. Conservative religious institutions control public discourse about women’s lives. Conservative religions institution are involved in public political activity.

Religions fundamentalists at their core do NOT recognize the separation of church and state. Each fundamentalist group relies on texts as being universal, for all time, only to be understood in one way with one mean, absolutely binding.

Do not accept tolerance and secularism as accepted international principles.

Public sphere: discussing human sexuality in: UN conferences.

Conservative religious institutions defined their religious beliefs.

Core: establish codes and values related to behaviour of women. Attempt to control women’s behavior.

Why so important?

Religious conservatives and fundamentalists recognize that international consensus has rejected the core values of fundamentalists. Fundamentalists speak louder, longer and use authoritarianism.

UN conferences, such as the Fourth World Conference on Women are an enormous challenge to religious conservatives.

Their response has been to work harder to try to block advancement of pluralism, secularism
and democracy.
There is a strong link between orthodox religious belief and the public sphere.

Catholicism is trying to conserve patriarchy.

Conservatives and fundamentalists take theory seriously.
Vatican seriously addressed women in Beijing through the lens of motherhood.

The women's movement for the last 7 or 8 years has been mostly strategical and tactical. In the next period she thinks more time should be paid to rearticulation of who we are and to nurture theoreticians.

Arati Rao, form Columbia University, New York, discussed Hindu fundamentalism and the paradox of their central obsession with women.
The Hindu Rights depends on a definition of Muslim women as pathetic and helpless.
They try to Demuslimize Muslim women and put pressure on Hindu women.

In India Hindus are about 83% of the populations, Muslims 12%
Why should Hindus be insecure with such a huge majority of the population or define themselves negatively related to Muslim women? Hindus, always the majority in India, still suffer form a "minority" complex

Hindus have no religious text representing the word of God. They have a jumble of myths and social codes. There is lack of boundaries of Hinduism which gives power to the Hindu right.

They changed the beliefs at Ayodya when they said that Ram a is "most important god to all Indians"
this is not true
India is regional superpower, with nuclear capacity. BJP, militant Hindu party is adamantly pro nuclear

Indian constitution: separates religion and politics, equal treatment of all religious.

BJP Women's wing: anti-Western feminist
no fundamental change in India
Women have always had pride of place in India
emphasis on motherhood
India today: disgust and contempt for Muslims openly expressed. Higher class Hindus are demonizing Muslims.
Good India versus evil Pakistan

Hindu right has appropriated women's issues.
Uniform Civil code but personal laws intact of marriage, dowry, inheritance. Hindu right wants one set of laws for everybody. (my comment: must fundamentalists define themselves against the 'other' Hindu vs Muslim Islam vs West)
India as a society is very religious. the Constitution is secular.

Religious fundamentalism obsession with gender roles
Women most important in keeping ideal society which is patriarchal

Diaspora: North American Indian community gives money to Hindu extremists. India is to Hindus as Mecca to Muslims.

Cairo conference: religions used a a tool for political purposes
NOT a modern phenomenon (I agree, although the chairperson introduced topic by saying that fundamentalism is a modern phenomenon. What about the Inquisition?)
Wherever and whenever there has been change, there is fundamentalism.
In modern life, the rate of change has increased.

For previous 2,000 years religious had political, state power.
The movement is a tool for political power.
Political use of fundamentalism, post cold war
Saudi Arabia, enormous investment of funds in the African American Muslim community in USA. Shaping their values.

Meeting:
Palwasha and Pamela with Socorro Reyes of Asia Pacific Women in Politics
Kim Hunter of Asia Foundation unable to attend due to staff illness

Discussed their resource network: materials, modules, resources, training seminars. In Jakarta and Nepal they had held training sessions on CEDAW and on gender issues. They are working to help women revise/redefine politics. Women tend to think that politics is a “dirty” business. We say how do you want politics to be?
Discuss the barriers to participation in politics for women, which include: their time, the way they were socialized who makes the decision.

political socialization excludes women from birth.
Political awareness: women need to get involved.

Afghan Women’s Network signed up to join APWIP after seeing their training manual for political participation which is very concrete and easy to understand, redefining politics in every day terms.
**AWID conference: Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action**

**Report on sessions held September 7, 1996**

**Plenary: Health and Reproductive Rights**

Started with honoring Bela Abzug for AWID award for services in the women’s movement. Abzug talked about her 50 years experience in the women’s movement. She said that she joined this movement in order to change the world agenda for equal benefit of men and women. She was one of the cofounders of AWID.

For reproductive health rights the Cairo Summit and Beijing Platform of Action were landmarks for change.

Attiya Inayatulla, International Planned Parenthood Federation, USA was the chair. Rachel Kyte, International Women’s Health Coalition, USA, emphasized collaboration based on the work of both NGOs and government. She said that this is the only way to fight against gender apartheid.

Irene Lungu, National Council of Catholic Women, Zambia, pointed out that the main constraint for women’s health is inadequate facilitates, cultural values and poor communication. She said to put forward women’s issues, men and women should be equally gender sensitized.

Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perriere, discussed women’s health issues in countries where women are living under Muslim laws. She said that in these countries sexual orientation rights are unimaginable. A Muslim woman is not allowed to marry a non-Muslim. Cultural values, such as genital mutilation which are danger for women’s health are practiced.

**Actions to Mobilize Women’s Political Participation**

Farzana Bari, Quaid i Azami University, Women’s Studies Centre, Pakistan discussed women’s invisibility in the political arena, lack of skills lack of resources. In Pakistan asking for reservation of seats in all political bodies for women. From the previous 10% she would like to raise it to 33% quota.

Need for women to redefine politics: qualitative change starting with local politics where women understand the issues very well.

Structures at local level should be more powerful Overall the question is of decentralization. In Pakistan there are women representatives in the Union Council, which is at the village level. The reservation is for two women to have seats in the council (she didn’t say the total number of seats)

In Punjab province 11% of the Union Council members are women, 120 women in 6 districts.

She did a study of this these women and found:

profile of women council members: 70% of them are illiterate, 20-25% have 5 years
education, all from rural areas, all are over 40 years old, all married except 2 women, 75%
have an annual income of US$2-4,000.

How did women become part of the union Council?
All of them said: through their husbands, local landlord, asked to join Union Council. NOT
interested active women. Requirement that Union Councils have women.
Chairman is elected by council members. Men are manipulating the women.

Level of participation: in meeting and in developing programs.
50% of the women went only once for the election of chairman, left their thumb impression on
the ballot.
In the development of projects, the women were not aware of the actual function of the Union
Council.

Issues: women identify with traditional roles.
Politics is considered a male only area
Women socialized through media and education in traditional roles.

Women’s perception: internalized process of oppression. No exposure to alternative
thinking.

Work of women’s organizations need to encourage political awareness.
Women’s self perception and perception of politics
Male dominance of political parties
Women need to create space for women to participate and give financial support to women.
Political structures are male dominated

? should women form separate autonomous political organizations? perhaps for the short
run to define own agenda and learn and develop skills.
We have a social responsibility to share our knowledge. To go to villages and talk with
women that they deserve a better life.

Theodora, from Nigeria
Nigeria has 100 million people independent since 1960
but only 12 years of civil democratic rule in that time.

Why do women not participate in politics? there are no legal barriers.
Ignorance and illiteracy
FIDA (her organization) strategy:
create awareness
rural areas talk about need to participate in politics
men have failed us
start with young girls
outreach program
exercise franchise from 18 years old
keep trying
lack of economic power/poverty: barrier against women’s participation in politics
women need self help projects
political summits with women in local government
Need free legal services
education: what are political rights
Thuggery bribery violence keep women out of politics
government appointments are based on nepotism.

Post Beijing activities
Ministry of Women Affairs established by Nigerian Government

In a local election: women have run for office.
one tale of woe: woman beaten up arrested
traditional chiefs said time is not right for a woman candidate
told to withdraw
she refused
ey beat her up
She was brought to the venue for voting under police guard
The impression given was that she was a criminal

Cultural stereotypes a major problem
Not contesting elections against men
traditional chiefs are involved

Lynda Crowell, Kenya Medical Mission, USA
Developmental policy goals CANNOT be realized unless women share economic assets and
have a political voice
women are controlled by male dominated political machines
voting is a first step towards empowerment

Developed a plan: how can we organize?
Plan assumes women can vote and have access to resources

Model: village development premise
1. ban together
2 combine skills to do what we want
3 translate into action

Taking no action is self defeating.
The Ostrich with head in the sand is blind to both opportunities and dangers.

How ban together
75 years to achieve right to vote in USA, Thea anniversary coming up
Tuned into the Vote 96 project. Distributed how to packets.
Political literacy is needed before political action.

Statement from Arthur Ashe, African American tennis champion who recently died of AIDS
Anita Weiss, University of Oregon, USA (Study of women in old walled city of Lahore)

We need to network with each other
share experience
provocative act: bring women into political process
need to reclaim politics for women
subvert patriarchy
challenge to the system which is not responsive to women
No US politicians at the AWID conference?
Women are determined to operate at a political level whether or not men will listen

Fatima Mernissi, Moroccan feminist:
women are envisioning a future and not just growing old

Finances are a constraint to women's participation in politics.
Challenging the political system: family law centers; women accessing laws

Beijing: place/space/state of mind political state of mind

Intervention of military: global issue
Military makes the hegemonic patriarchy more visible

1982, when Zia ul Haq, military dictator of Pakistan tried to introduce law of evidence whereby woman only counted as half of a man, women took to the streets.
Women were the first to speak out following the 1977 military coup.
Lathi charge, so case was registered against the police who have no rights to touch women.

Need organizations to prepare women to win elections and to be good professional politicians.

Guidelines for the protection of Refugee Women
Chairperson: Anna Mary Portz, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, IRC, Washington DC, USA
Karen Landgren, UNHCR
Beverlee Bruce, Women's Commission, IRC
Fouzia Musse, Women's Commission, IRC

Beverlee Bruce: relation of assistance to protection question of empowerment. UNHCR guidelines. Gave example of skills training for Liberian women. Women trained in construction skills, hired to rebuild homes.

Xuan Sutter, Save the Children, working for Refugee women network in USA
Help women in camps and repatriation
develop leadership skills among refugee women
Clarice Taylor, CARE emergency response, working on relief to development continuum
Basic needs: save lives, food sanitation, shelter, later participation, etc.
Assistance grew out of health care
How to operationalize UNHCR guidelines
First priority: sanitation, problem of sexual violence
separate male and female latrines
guards at male and female latrines
food distribute: elected refugee groups
strengthen male leadership
Have to prove to men that women are capable

Training:
the hope always is that refugee status will be of short duration
health intervention
small enterprise areas, useful back home
Awareness training of women and their rights

Noted reluctance to speak about sexual violence.
CARE staff training: gender awareness, sexual violence

Roberta Cohen, working with Fouzia noted 1 week 22 Somalia refugee women in camps in Kenya were raped.
No protection in camps (happened three years ago)
went to MSF compound for protection.
Fawzia made a list of 27 women who had been targeted and raped more than once
No one acted upon this list which sat on a desk in Nairobi for two weeks
Guidelines: inadequate for sexual violence and reproductive health
Kenya: sexual violence should have generated URGENT action alert
Bosnia a change, white European women involved finally got attention
In Kenya: UNHCR office “What is so bad about rape? you don’t die from it”
NGOs in Kenya got publicity and attention to the problem
Very little presence of protection officer in the field
understaffed: UNHCR two people coordinate for women
Branch offices have to take guidelines seriously
need to educated/discuss implement/operationalize in the field.

Refugee women don’t know guidelines: need to be translated
Rights based document
No discussion in UNHCR with refugee women to make sure guidelines are carried out
no complaints procedure
till now have been excluded from the guidelines process

Women’s commissions: director of protection
revision of guidelines
• link guidelines to rights
• assistance and protection
• more user friendly/condensed field version one page/graphic
• expand to sexual violence, reproductive and mental health
other areas need to be included
such as refugee women not in camps need protection and assistance
women seeking asylum
repatriation of refugee women and girls
internally displaced women
30 million internally displaced persons, mostly women and children
Growth of internal conflicts
reluctance of states to receive refugees
increase of internally displaced
on one organizations deals with them
problem of sovereignty government not providing protection

UNHCR guidelines do NOT apply to internally displaced

Need strategies for implementation
training of staff
attitudes and prejudice of staff

Anna Mary Porz:
protection can become disempowerment
continuum: disaster to development
women are critical development agents

Need for political mobilization around:
November report by UNICEF: impact of war on children
includes women’s role in rehabilitation
violence
land mines

Note: the discussion and questions and answers that followed this session was very emotionally charged. One woman was in tears over the lack of assistance to refugee women she had been working with. Another woman noted the lack of support for refugee women NOT living in camps who had no one to support their rights.
AWID conference: Beyond Beijing: From Words to Action
Report on sessions held September 8, 1996

Emerging Women's Human Rights Issues
Nasreen Huq, Helen Keller International, Bangladesh
Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perriere, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, France
Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership, USA
Susana Fried, Center for Women's Global Leadership, USA

Susana Fried: Sexual rights from the perspective of women’s human rights. Quest is now to define. Right to refuse sex and when, where, how express sexuality

Notions of citizenship expanded.
Women as autonomous, sexual beings.

Human Rights: Protection and enjoyment
Political as well as legal framework

Discourse on health, sex and reproduction
related to discourse on power, personal relations
Health and disease: show the links between body and society.

Categories of human rights
civil political rights
economic and social rights

sexual rights: breakdowns down all categories

movement for women’s human rights, coalesced around violence against women, which has been successful at the rhetorical level.

A signification amount of the violence against women is of a sexualized form.
Women’s bodies are the terrain of violence.

Caroline Brac de la Perriere
1989: women demonstrated against Algerian fundamentalists called “kaffir”, betrayers of Muslim community

Muslim men abroad: use argument of culture and tradition
Use guilt to get support
These men are fascists in their own country, reject human rights as a Western invention
West falls easily into this trap. Voices of opposition are buried.
Fundamentalists present culture as static, unitary entity instead of constantly changing, dynamic.
individual produce and reproduce culture
In struggle produce another culture.

Societies as least two groups: male/female rural/urban rich/poor
Those who seek to preserve or change, can be in their own self interests.
Fundamentalists: imposing “their’ culture NOT that of the Algerian people

West acts not only out of guilt, but also underlying conviction of cultural superiority.
Think of Muslims as “savage” but won’t name it,
so-called respect of “otherness”
American and European activities sometimes serve dominant groups
Do not question in depth their own culture.
Women as for rights according to limits of culture’s integrity
Few question economy and social patriarchy

International women’s movement: the women of the ex-colonized countries have begin to
claim their human rights
ignore the insults of being “Westernized”
Western women: ambiguity of own culture, culture of domination, hide behind culture of human rights
Framework of human rights i European

University of human rights:
coopted by developed countries
We as feminists, as human rights activities, need to make a clear statement. Human rights is
not in vacuum. It is a product of concrete historical struggle, struggle of real people.
US bombing of Iraq, violation of Kurdish people’s human rights
Solidarity of human beings against all domination
for peace, freedom social justice for all.

Desane: Sisterlove?AIDS project

Community services HIV/AIDS
past eight months joined Center for Human Rights education: emerging as the strategy for the women’s movement
including reproductive rights: HIV/AIDS
Human Rights: offers electric synergy
Women’s human rights: best and largest global framework
also locally deals with services and develops leadership
“over“standing what human rights mean
Human rights has local relevance for individual and collective lives
Human Rights education offers opportunities for change
gives structure of support for change
Differences: men and women's human rights
no research on women
same drugs applied to everyone

Movement for understanding gender as apply to human rights, also applies to men
Torture: sexuality and gender
violence against men different because they are men
Gender means the way men experience torture is gendered
All are affected by gender as well as by race and class

Human rights are universal: exercise and violations of human rights are shaped by all these factors.

Male human rights issues are clear but their reality is NOT universal. Women’s reality is different.

Rise of new conservatism
Human rights political framework, gives credibility in the world
**Human rights says that profit is NOT the only value in the world**
**States (governments) have agreed to be responsible for human rights**
Role of state not just defense but also defense of human rights

HIV/AIDS is a human rights issue
developing countries can not afford cure
Now the occurrence of AIDS is 1:1 men and women
But in women appearing in women ten years younger: women 15 to 19 years of age, one half of infections

India 3 million infected
only 1 in 3 age of 30
1 in 5 child bearing age
young women infected because of gender inequity

Closing Plenary: Power sharing and Political Participation

Rieky Stuart, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Canada, chair
Socorro Reyes, Center for Legislative Development, Phillipines
Virginia Vargas, Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristan, Peru
Toujan Faisal MP, Jordan House o Parliament
Wu Qing, Central University for Nationalities, China

Socorro Reyes: A new political paradigm for women
Grassroots women change role of political elite so that women can participate in economic
social political reality

Many women legislators: are men trapped in women’s bodies
there is inequality among women
not all women identify with women’s human rights

Throw ball: activity in political education of women:
women catch and say what do you associate politics with?
Answers: corruption, fraud

Pictures from everyday life: ask is this political?

Women redefining politics
trying to lower barriers to political participation

Toujan Faisal, MP Jordan

More democracy = more rights for women
BUT democracy linked with “market” capitalism always limited
Majority of women fall into poorer sectors of society
fight for democracy is fight for women’s rights

Quality of politicians in world regardless of sex
\ Less democracy means less quality women appointees: passive preserve status quo:
gratitude to be chosen to be in the elite

prefer elected posts
voting risky

Shouldn’t trust government to unqualified persons (but she didn’t clarify what makes someone “qualified’)

Tribal power: main political organization in Jordan but not political
still manage to have their own representatives
Parliament: prestigious tribal position
forged certificates
Insulting to male ego to have women in Parliament
regard her as an “ornament”

Electoral laws are used against women

Wu Qing
She spoke of getting things done, proving she’s serious
use the constitution as backup
Take up bread and butter issues, cant change things too fast
2,400 years of feudalism
Virginia Vargas: spoke of weak democracies in Latin America, lack of democratic "soil"
Difficult to ask states for accountability

State and government not flexible

Coalition: Platform of action: lost out in some areas
weak in economic justice, sexual rights: abortion, sexual preference

Gains: women established task force
increase women's political participation
alliances NGO with government
Majority of governments have development national plan for action

Increasing political participation of women necessary for meaningful change

quotas: 20-30% of parliament and parties
Obstacles:
lack of rights
battle against fundamentalists and conservatives
weak democratic structures
lack of resources
military instead of social expenditures
armed conflict

Note: after closing, Afghan Women's Network participated in Women's Human Rights Networking Session. See AWID Follow up for suggested activities.
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Meetings in New York
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Mtg Coord</th>
<th>Notetaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Centre for Human Rights</td>
<td>10 Sept  3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Purificacion Quisimbing 212-463-5730</td>
<td>Rukhshana</td>
<td>Maliha</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>10 Sept  3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Roxana Carrillo 212-906-6458</td>
<td>Palwasha</td>
<td>Farida</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF, DAW (Division for Advancement of women)</td>
<td>11 Sept  12 noon</td>
<td>Marilyn Dawson 212-888-7465</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>Palwasha</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP Afghan desk Gender Unit</td>
<td>13 Sept  10 a.m.</td>
<td>Richard Miller 906-5825</td>
<td>Safia, Malia</td>
<td>Rukhshana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosario Green</td>
<td>16 Sept  3 p.m.</td>
<td>953-3043</td>
<td>Malia</td>
<td>Farida</td>
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<td>Linda Perkin, UN political affairs</td>
<td>19 Sept  10 a.m.</td>
<td>6878633</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Safia</td>
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<td>IWTC, International Women's Tribune Center</td>
<td>10 Sept  1 p.m.</td>
<td>Ann Walker</td>
<td>All: Chart</td>
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<td>ILHR, International League for human rights</td>
<td>12 Sept  12:30</td>
<td>Marjorie Lightman 6841221</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>Safia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC, International Rescue Committee</td>
<td>12 Sept  3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Beverlee Bruce 551-3086</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Equality Now</td>
<td>11 Sept  10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sarita Sandosham, 586-0906</td>
<td>Farida</td>
<td>Malia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media: New York Times</td>
<td>11 Sept  8 a.m.</td>
<td>Barbara Crossete 935-8165</td>
<td>Rukhshana</td>
<td>none</td>
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<td>UN Radio</td>
<td>12 Sept  10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Diane Bailey 9636977</td>
<td>Palwasha</td>
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<td>Canada TV</td>
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<td>Safia, Rukhshana Farida, Safia</td>
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<td>Voice of America</td>
<td>in Washington DC</td>
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Report on meeting with Rosario Green
Assistant Secretary-General,
Special Political Adviser to the Secretary-General

on 16 September, 1996, 38th floor Secretariat Building, United Nations New York, USA

UN Participants: Ms. Green, Andrew Gilmour, Political Affairs Office, one other woman (no business card)
Afghan Women’s Network: Maleha, Palwasha, Farida, Pamela

Goal 1: A woman on the Special Mission for Peace in Afghanistan to be sure that women’s voices are heard and women’s rights are considered

After introductions, Ms Green noted that Secretary General has agreed, along with Mr. Goulding head of the UN Department of Political Affairs, to have a woman on the peace mission. She asked for assistance to identify the qualified person. She noted that first they would search in house, within the UN.

When we suggested the possibility of an Afghan woman, she and Mr Gilmour noted that although this will be a difficult position for any woman, it would be even more difficult for an Afghan woman. She noted the importance of following UN procedures and looking for someone from within the UN. She wondered why we hadn’t noted in our letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali either Dari or Pashto as a qualification, in order to get in touch with women and children.

We returned to our suggestion that it should be two women, working as a team with an Afghan counterpart. She said that a counterpart is not feasible, but an interpreter/assistant would be. She also noted that the woman assigned to this position had to have mobility, that she could not be too highly placed or there would be too much formality not allowing her access to Afghan women and girls.

Green noted that the appointment must be done carefully and properly. The UN needs to protect her and to see that her work is efficient. She will be a political officer mandated by Mr Hall to do specific political work to bring the Afghan women’s ideas to the Special Mission.

We noted that for the interpreter/assistant position, a well qualified, respected Afghan women would be best qualified. We felt that the assistant position should have similar qualifications to the team member position in order to be effective. We stressed that it should not be just any person who is called upon to interpret from place to place, but someone who works with the special mission team members all of the time.

The female team member would function as part of the team, but would need to make a special effort to reach women, especially rural women. UN agencies and NGOs are working with women in some parts of Afghanistan. Arrangements could be made through these agencies to meet with rural and village women.
Goal 2: Ensure guarantees of women's basic human rights are included in all interim peace agreements: rights to employment, education and security

Palwasha noted that women's human rights have been ignored in our country. Girls' schools have been closed in some areas. Women are not allowed to work outside the home or go anywhere without their husband or father accompanying them. Women do not have security. They can be harassed, abducted, forced into marriage or told to wear a black uniform type of clothing that is not related to traditional Afghan dress.

Andrew Gilmour, from the Department of Political Affairs, asked what might a gendered approach to peace negotiations mean. We noted that these three conditions: right of women to work outside the home, right of women and girls to equal access to education and right to security, not to be harassed or forced to wear uniform clothing were fundamental to establishing the conditions for rehabilitation in Afghanistan. If these are not met, women now in exile in Pakistan, could not return. Many of these women are widows, and/or sole support of their families. They need to work outside the home. They are qualified, have experience and want to work for the rehabilitation of their country. Agreements to basic human rights for women and girls must be part of any interim peace agreements.

We noted that these are the basic human rights voiced by the educated middle class Afghan women. There may be other rights that other women feel are just as basic and necessary for their return to Afghanistan and/or for them to participate in rehabilitation of Afghanistan. The Special Mission must listen to other women's voices and be sure that their ideas are included.

Rosario Green noted that in peace negotiations in other countries, there have been women on the team, but that these women did not fully understand and/or did not solicit the views of women so that some women felt left out and unprotected regarding issues such as property rights. Green noted that having a woman on the team is not enough to guarantee that the necessary gender issues will be raised. We have learned from this experience that we have to do more so that women will be protected and included, noted Green.

Goal 3: Provide training in leadership, advocacy and networking skills for Afghan women and increase their access to information about struggles for peace and human rights throughout the world

Pamela noted that one reason that Afghan women's views are not included is that women themselves have not had experience in voicing them. It takes time, experience and training. She cited the example of the Advisory Group on Gender issues in Afghanistan and that the Afghan women who are members did not actively participate for the first few months. After a series of workshops on communication, leadership, networking, advocacy and gender awareness, Afghan women began to speak out in the Advisory Group. But this process takes time. UN agencies and NGOs should be working with women and girls to give them the skills and experience they need to voice their concerns.
She also noted the importance of gender training for the Special Mission as well as for the UN agencies working in Afghanistan. The Advisory Group started gender training but lacks the resources, human and financial, to reach everyone. Green said that gender training is mandated for all UN staff and she would be emphasizing this to UN staff working in Afghanistan.

Pamela noted that the Advisory group needs expansion and coordination to continue, that it has served an important purpose as a source of information, sharing ideas, communication among UN agencies and with NGOs as well as clearinghouse for conference and training opportunities. The Advisory Group lacks resources, human and financial. It should be strengthened with a full time coordinator.

Pamela noted that the Afghan Women's Network has been developed using volunteers and with no funding. She and her colleagues will be writing proposals, seeking support for the Network.

The meeting ended with Ms Green noted that the UN is in favor of a women on the peace team but it would take time. She also said that it would not be possible to have an Afghan counterpart but that we could suggest names of qualified Afghan women to be interpreter/assistant. She asked for the list of names as soon as possible. She also asked for continuing information and communication with the Afghan Women's Network.
U.N. Is Pressed to Name a Woman to an Afghan Peace Mission

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 13 — Rukhsana Sarwar, a professor of English at Kabul University in Afghanistan, had survived coups and a Soviet invasion. Then, in 1992, she had to flee fighting among Afghan factions that left her neighborhood in ruins and the fate of the women of Afghanistan in the hands of Islamic militants determined to deny them a place in civic life.

Ms. Sarwar, now working on education projects for refugee women and children in Pakistan, came to New York this week with other Afghan women to ask the United Nations to name a woman to a special mission being assembled by Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to look for ways to help Afghanistan find peace and begin reconstruction.

The Islamic guerrillas who defeated the Soviet Army and its Afghan allies have been fighting among themselves since capturing the capital, Kabul, in 1992. Battles erupted again this week and the important city of Jalalabad fell to a conservative Islamic movement, the Taliban. Jalalabad is a center of United Nations operations.

The Taliban movement is not alone in denying women rights as it imposes what it views as a rigorous form of Islam. The Afghan Government, a coalition of formerly warring parties, has told the United Nations not to send any women to Afghanistan in international delegations or as officials, which has led some women in the United Nations system to urge that Kabul be put on notice that assistance could be withdrawn if discrimination continues.

Afghan women are now a majority of the adult population of Afghanistan, said Ms. Sarwar, whose husband, a professor of political science, was killed after he returned to Kabul in 1993 to try to help bring about a political solution. Without the involvement of women in rebuilding the country, she said, there will never be peace.

"Afghan women and children have been sacrificed to this bloody war fought because of the selfishness of warlords," she said in an interview before a meeting with officials of Unicef, which last year announced it would stop programs in Afghanistan that discriminated against girls.

On Monday they will meet Assistant Secretary General Rosario Green, who is in charge of encouraging and monitoring women's participation in United Nations activities.

The Afghan women's trip was paid for with grants from international relief organizations.

Ms. Sarwar, who works in Pakistan for Save the Children U.S.A., is part of a new organization, the Afghan Women's Network, which had its origins at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing a year ago. After the Afghan Government vetoed plans to send an official delegation to the conference, a group of women went without official backing to take part in a nongovernmental forum held at the same time.

The women were among many from Islamic nations who say they were galvanized by the conference into organizing groups, however small, to press for women's rights across North Africa, the Middle East and West Asia. In Beijing they met Muslim women from the more liberal Islamic nations of South and Southeast Asia.

The emergence of Muslim women's groups over the last year was one topic discussed this week as women from around the world met here to assess progress made since the Beijing conference.

"The Beijing conference created a passion, a boldness, that I have not seen in 20 years of working with the U.N.," said Bella Abzug, the former New York Congresswoman who is president of the Women's Environment and Development Organization and helped start it in 1990.
Afghan Women’s Network
P.O. Box 855
Peshawar, Pakistan

18 September 1996

His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General
United Nations

Your Excellency:

We are members of the Afghan Women’s Network, established in October 1995 after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing to work for peace and human rights in Afghanistan. In Islamabad, Pakistan, the Network participates in the Advisory Committee on Gender Issues in Afghanistan, made up of UN agencies and NGOs. In New York, during the past week, we have met with several UN agencies and human rights organizations. At the first anniversary of the Beijing conference celebrated 9 September at the UN, we were impressed by your remarks supporting empowerment and recruitment of more women at decision making levels in UN organizations.

Unfortunately, in our country women’s and girls’ rights are ignored. Therefore, we have started a campaign for peace and human rights which has three goals:

- urge the UN to recruit a qualified woman to join the Special Mission for Peace in Afghanistan.

The majority of people in Afghanistan are women. A woman on the Special Mission is required for Afghan women’s voices to be heard and their rights to be respected. For any lasting peace, we must bring women into the process for peace and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. It is their human right to be included. The Beijing Platform for Action mandated the participation of women in decision making and conflict resolution. We have received a positive response from several UN agencies, including the office of Rosario Green and the Department of Political Affairs, regarding having a woman on the Special Mission.

- include guarantees of women’s and girls’ basic human rights in all interim peace agreements. These rights include:
  - the right to employment outside the home
  - the right to security; women and girls must not be harassed, kidnapped, subjected to forced marriages or forced to wear uniform clothing by any authorities.
  - the right of women and girls to equal access to education.

To enable Afghan women in Pakistan who are working to support their families to return to Afghanistan, we must have these basic human rights. International donors should require guarantees of women’s and girls’ human rights before contributing funds for rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan.

- provide training in leadership, advocacy and networking skills for Afghan women to enable them to participate effectively in the campaign for peace and human rights.
We need assistance from UN agencies and NGOs to provide training for Afghan women, particularly in the areas of gender issues, conflict resolution and human rights. The Beijing Platform for Action recognized the responsibility of international agencies to provide training for women’s leadership.

The woman who will be a member of the Special Mission should have the following characteristics:

- interest and commitment to working with Afghans, especially women
- experience in working in the area of women’s human rights and the rights of the girl child
- knowledge and experience of gender issues in areas of conflict
- awareness of Afghan culture and religion
- experience in international affairs or negotiations
- willingness to travel throughout Afghanistan, including rural areas, despite difficult circumstances
- knowledge of Dari or Pashto, the two major national languages in Afghanistan, would be desirable but not required

We consider it essential to have a knowledgeable, well-qualified Afghan woman working as an interpreter and assistant to the female team member. To ensure that Afghan women’s voices are heard, the assistant must have a background in gender awareness and analysis. She must not have any affiliation with any political party or faction. She should be a full participant in all Special Mission team meetings. We are developing a list of possible candidates for both positions, which we will send to Assistant Secretary-General Green.

For the female Special Mission team member to be effective, she needs the active support of every member on the team, plus the support of all UN agencies. There should be clear instructions regarding the importance of a woman on the team, as well as gender awareness training for all members of the Special Mission team, including the local officers assisting the team. The entire team should be briefed on gender issues in the Afghan context by practitioners who have field experience in Afghanistan. UNDP is currently preparing a report on gender issues that could be useful as a starting point. Because of the nature of gender roles in Afghanistan, without a woman on the team, most women would not be able to speak with the team. However, it is the responsibility of the entire team, not just the female officer and her assistant, to see that women’s and girls’ human rights are protected.

For the peace process to include the voices of Afghan women from different ethnic and regional backgrounds, as well as rural and urban areas, a special effort will have to be made, as Afghan women are not accustomed to expressing their views. They often lack the skills and experience needed. In areas where UN agencies and NGOs are working, these organizations can contribute to a peace process that includes women and girls by offering training and experiences that encourage women to effectively voice their concerns. Arrangements for the Special Mission to speak with rural and village women could be made through these organizations.

Although we realize that negotiations are dynamic and some information may need to be confidential, ongoing briefing of women and other interested groups will increase the effectiveness of the Special Mission. A communication strategy should be developed utilizing the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, which meets monthly in Islamabad and is organizing technical working groups on gender issues throughout Afghanistan. To carry out these and other tasks, the Advisory Group needs to be strengthened by the assignment of a full-time coordinator.
We appreciate your support for human rights for women and the girl child. We look forward to being in communication with you through Assistant Secretary-General Rosario Green regarding initiatives that include the participation of women to develop a stable, long-lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Maliha Danish  Rukhshana Sarwar  Palwasha Hassan  Safia Siddiqi  Farida Stanikzai

fax: 92-51-279210 or 92-51-859489  email: pafo%sc_us@sdnpk.undp.org

enclosure: brochure, Afghan Women’s Network

Copies:
UN Special Ambassador Norbert Holl
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan, Choong-Hyun Paik
Rosario Green, UN Assistant Secretary-General
Linda Perkin, UN Dept. of Political Affairs
Angela King, Kristen Timothy, Janet Beilstein, UN Division for the Advancement of Women
Purificacion Quisimbing, UN Centre for Human Rights
Carol Bellamy, Misrak Elias, Gulbadan Habibi, UNICEF
Noeleen Heyser, Roxanna Carrillo, UNIFEM
Nafis Sadik, UNFPA
Judith Katona-Apte, Department of Humanitarian Affairs
Erling Dessau, UNDP Afghanistan
Alfredo Wuitschi-Cestari, UNOCHA
Richard Miller, Programme Manager, Afghanistan, UNDP
Rosina Wiltshire, UNDP/GDIP
Government Missions to the UN:
Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, USA, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden
Robin Raphel, Roberta Chew, USA State Department
Phyllis Oakley, PRM projects, USAID
Kathleen Hendrix, USA President’s Interagency Task Force on Gender
Marjorie Lightman, International League for Human Rights
Beverlee Bruce, Women’s Commission, International Rescue Committee
Anne Walker, International Women’s Tribune Center
Working Group on Women’s Human Rights, Washington, D.C. USA
Barbara Crossette, UN desk, New York Times
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Activities following Afghan Women's delegation visit
AWID Conference: Follow up Activities for the Afghan Women’s Network

September 8, 1996, Following the Closing Plenary, a meeting was held on Women's Human Rights Networking, Convened by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership and the Working Group on the Human Rights of Women

From that meeting, plus previous meetings held during the conference, the following followup activities were suggested.

Projects/Follow up AWID

Regional Resources (future regional training)
- Contact with Shirkat Gah, Lahore, Farida Zahid
- Contact with APWIP in Islamabad, Farzana Bari
- Contact with UNIFEM, Delhi office: Chandni Joshi
- Contact with Mallika Dutt, Ford Foundation, Delhi

Working with above, develop plan for regional workshops on Leadership and Communication Skills for Afghan Women in a human rights framework. (This has not been done. Emphasis has been on responding to situation in Kabul.)

Letter to UN Secretary General:
outlining situation of Afghan women
importance of women in the peace process
send copy to Working Group on Women’s Human Rights

(This was done in New York, 18 September, 1996. A copy is attached. The letter was distributed with the assistance of the International League for Human Rights)

Develop contacts with Afghan women in US, UK, Australia and Canada
(This process has begun, but no contact list has been developed)

Translation of human rights documents:
What has been translated by CCA? What are they planning to translate?
Use of plain language *ex: CEDAW from UNIFEM
Choose what needs to be translated
Information that is easy to translate. Possible help from Afghan women abroad. But they need clear guidelines
IRC Women’s Commission in Washington DC: may be able to provide translators from English to Dari or Pashto. Problem: communication and checking on translation. If interested, get name and contact info from Beverlee Bruce

Discuss with Sima Wali, Gulbadan Habibi, Zohra Rahsekh OTHERS? possible speakers on situation for women in Afghanistan *need to send them info on regular basis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Persons responsible</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>contact list: UN &amp; NGOs</td>
<td>Palwasha &amp; Pamela</td>
<td>30 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>letter to UN Secy Gen, with profile of ideal woman for UN Peace mission in Afghanistan</td>
<td>entire delegation</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list of women for UN Peace Mission</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>5 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list of NGO’s accredited at UN</td>
<td>Rukhshana</td>
<td>20 Oct, received list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>network with Pakistani women’s organizations</td>
<td>Palwasha</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>develop ongoing training plan</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>training plan submitted to UNDP, Nov. 25, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funding proposal for Advisory Group</td>
<td>Palwasha</td>
<td>submitted to UNDP, Dec. 5, 1996</td>
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<td>funding proposal for Afghan Women’s Network</td>
<td>Palwasha, Farida</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights conventions: pictorial booklets</td>
<td>Rukhshana, Safia</td>
<td>Task Force started by Advisory Group Oct. 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>research on UN responsibility for carrying out UN conventions</td>
<td>Sameena Nazir</td>
<td>Information received by fax Nov. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collect women’s stories of human rights violations</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>follow up workshop in Peshawar</td>
<td>Farida, Safia</td>
<td>3 and 28 of November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>follow up workshop in Islamabad</td>
<td>Palwasha Pamela</td>
<td>5 December, report, planning and human rights training</td>
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</table>
Emergency Alert: Afghan women's human rights under threat in Kabul

On Thursday 26 September 1996, the international staff of the UN and NGO's were evacuated from the city of Kabul, Afghanistan, as the military faction known as the "Taliban" began fighting on the outskirts of the city. On Friday, 27 September, 1996, the city of Kabul is under siege, with the airport closed and only one road to the north open.

The Afghan Women's Network is sending an appeal to international human rights organizations to focus attention at this critical moment on the basic human rights of Afghan women living and working in Kabul. None of the military factions fighting for power have acknowledged or protected the human rights of women. We must rely on international attention and UN agencies to try to support the women of Kabul who are living with the daily threat of death and destruction as well as the lack of any guarantees of their basic human rights.

The basic human rights that we are demanding for the women of Kabul and all Afghan women are:

1. the right to security. Women and girls must not be harassed, kidnapped, subjected to forced marriages nor forced to wear uniform clothing by any authorities.

2. the right to employment outside the home. In Kabul many women are working in offices and schools. They have the right to work without harassment and to share responsibilities working directly with their male colleagues.

3. the right of women and girls to equal access to education. On Friday, September 13 1996, two days after the military group known as the "Taliban" took over the city of Jalalabad, they declared that women and girls would not be allowed to attend school. In Herat, where schools for girls have been closed since September 1995 when the Taliban took over the city, classes for girls are being held clandestinely in homes. We do not accept the excuse sometimes given that "security" requires that girls and women are not allowed access to education, while boys' schools continue to operate.

Please circulate this appeal as widely as possible, including to media. We will try to keep you informed regarding the situation in Kabul. We appreciate your support.
to: United Nations, international NGOs and donors

from: Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan

Statement: Unified Approach to Human Rights in Afghanistan

We consider a coordinated and unified stand by UN, NGOs and donors as crucial as a response to the recent takeover of Kabul by the Taliban.

In order to reach agreement on a unified approach, we need to have a clearly established process for discussion. We suggest that the process, including who is responsible and in what time frame a policy will be decided should be established. There should be procedures for input from the field as well as ongoing reporting of information received and decisions made.

We are concerned about the violations of human rights of Afghans, including women, men, boys and girls. However, we note that women and girls have been singled out by the Taliban authorities as not having the right to work or attend school.

Therefore, we want to reaffirm our position that we must have guarantees of the basic rights of women and girls in order to operate our programs within Afghanistan.

These are
1. Women's right to employment outside the home
2. Women's and girls' right to security.
3. Women's and girls' right to equal access to education

We noted that the Taliban are not aware of human rights and international conventions. There needs to be an ongoing process of education, including simplified translated copies of the basic UN conventions.

There should be a woman as a member of all negotiation teams during meetings with Taliban authorities. The negotiation team should establish some sort of timeframe. Any strategies such a team might come up with should be discussed in advance with heads of agencies of the UN and NGOs. Policies should apply to all of Afghanistan not just Kabul.

We suggest to the United Nations General Assembly that if/when considering the application of the Taliban for UN recognition and membership that they must consider the obligations of the Taliban towards human rights.

As a matter of urgency, we should confirm our commitment to all staff in writing that there will be no layoffs or dismissals at present time. As a matter of principle, it is not acceptable for staff to stay at home on salary. They have a right to work

We have prepared this statement for consideration by United Nations agencies, international NGOs and donors to try to reach a consensus. We would appreciate a written response within two weeks.
15 October 1996

Who we are

We are a group of Afghan women and their supporters who live in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In a country where over 90% of the women and girls are illiterate, we are a group of women who were encouraged by their families to become educated. Many of us have university degrees. Many of us previously worked in Afghanistan as lawyers, engineers, professors and doctors. Now we are working with NGOs (non governmental organizations), UN agencies and schools. Some of us are widows. Many of us are the sole support of our families. Because we are educated, we believe that we have the responsibility to speak out for ourselves and for other Afghan women who have not had the opportunities we have had.

The Afghan Women's Network

Although Afghanistan had no official delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, a few of us attended the NGO Forum on Women. Meeting with other women from around the world inspired us to start the Afghan Women's Network to work for peace and human rights in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Women's Network is active in Peshawar and Islamabad in Pakistan and Mazar-i-sharif and Kabul, Afghanistan.

Afghan Women's Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

In September 1996, we launched a campaign for peace and human rights in Afghanistan. A delegation from the Afghan Women's Network visited the USA, where we spoke with human rights organizations, NGOs, women's organizations and UN agencies. We received support from many organizations and individuals, who previously had had no direct contact with any organized group of Afghan women working for peace and human rights.

Taliban takeover of Kabul

While the delegation was in New York, the group known as the Taliban, took over the Afghan city of Jalalabad. A week later the Taliban took over the capital city, Kabul. Although none of the military factions in Afghanistan respect the human rights of women and girls, the actions of the Taliban have been the most extreme.

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul on September 27, 1996, women have been ordered to stay at home and not to work. Many women are the sole support of their families. There are an estimated 25,000 widows in Kabul. Other women play an important economic role
within their extended families. Many international aid programs in Kabul are temporarily suspended. The World Food Programme in a press release dated October 10, 1996 noted that a bakery in Kabul operated by war widows has been forced to shut down, leaving 15,000 beneficiaries without bread.

Some women have ventured out, covered from head to toe in a garment worn over their clothes called a "burqa". Even the burqa does not protect a woman. One woman in a burqa was beaten because she was not wearing socks. Another woman, who left her house to visit her sick mother, stated "I was fully covered with black clothes (head to feet) top to bottom. The Taliban stopped me along the way and asked me why are you alone? and thousands of whys. Then they started beating me and hit me with a metal rod." Another woman in Kabul lifted her clothing to jump over a stream of water. Two Talibs accused her of trying to show her legs. She argued with them. She was beaten and thrown to the ground. One strong hit by a heavy rod stopped her life for ever.

Although there are no reliable statistics, it is estimated that about 70% of the teachers in Kabul are women. They have all been ordered to stay at home, causing a severe shortage of teachers. Girls are not allowed to attend schools. Many boys cannot attend school because of the lack of teachers. Before the Taliban takeover, girls were attending schools regularly. About 40% of the estimated 150,000 children attending school in Kabul were girls.

Taliban ordered female patients to leave the hospitals, since the staff included male doctors. Male doctors are not allowed to treat female patients. Some female medical workers have been allowed to return to work, but they cannot work with their male colleagues. Other medical workers who tried to return to work were turned away by the Taliban. One nurse explained how she could hear their female patients crying and calling out to them but the Taliban did not allow the nurses to enter the hospital.

We have no reliable reports on the numbers of people who have fled Kabul, either for the northern areas, still under the control of General Dostum or for Pakistan, but many people have chosen to leave rather than face Taliban control. At first, women and girls left if they could. Now, families are sending their adolescent boys out of Kabul for fear that they might be forced to join the Taliban and fight. Some families living in Herat, under Taliban control since September 1995, have sent their daughters to Iran or Pakistan for education or are conducting classes clandestinely in their homes.

Afghan women who are currently working for international programs, schools or offices in Pakistan are worried about what might happen if Pakistan recognizes the Taliban government and then insists that all refugees return to Afghanistan. Women will be unable to return to Afghanistan unless their basic human rights to employment, education and security are guaranteed. According to UNHCR, during the past year, most Afghan refugees in Iran, have not returned to Taliban controlled areas. One of the reasons given was the lack of female access to basic services such as health and education.

Some media reports and commentators have put forward the view that the control of the Taliban is not so negative because they have brought order without looting. This view ignores the fact that the decrees of the Taliban deny women and girls as well as men and
boys their basic human rights. The "order" they have imposed is based on violence and the fact that they have all the weapons. They rule by direct force and threat of force. The people of Afghanistan have had no say about who is ruling them. This is not "peace" or "security".

If it were a racial, religious or ethnic minority that was being denied the right to work, the right to mobility, the right to education, the right of access to health care, there would have been a tremendous international outcry, as developed in the case of South Africa.

We ask people to consider what would be the effect if they were to wake up tomorrow and just because they are female, they would be denied the right to leave their homes to go shopping, the right to work outside the home and the right to go to school. Consider what effect such a harsh regime would have on your mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. Gender apartheid is just as great a denial of basic human rights as is racial apartheid.

**Support Afghan women's and girls' human rights**

We are concerned about the violations of human rights of all Afghans - women, men, boys and girls. However, we note that women and girls have been singled out by the Taliban authorities as not having the right to work or attend school.

Therefore, we want to reaffirm our position that we must have guarantees of the basic rights of women and girls. These rights are:

1. Women's right to employment outside the home, which includes the right to work with their male colleagues.

2. Women's and girls' right to security. Women should not be forced to wear a uniform type of clothing or covering. They should have mobility without harassment.

3. Women's and girls' right to equal access to education. Women and girls should have equal access to a complete educational curriculum, not just Qu'ranic instruction. They should have equal access to all levels of education from primary through university. We do not accept the excuse of "security" for the closing of girls' schools while boys' schools remain open, which the Taliban have used in other areas under their control for over one year.

 Guarantees of women's basic human rights should be part of all interim peace agreements. International donors should require guarantees of women's human rights before contributing funds for rehabilitation and development in Afghanistan.

There should be a woman on every team negotiating with the Taliban, both from the political side of the Special Mission for peace in Afghanistan and the humanitarian side regarding requirements for the resumption of aid projects, many of which are temporarily suspended in Kabul. When a delegation of Afghan women from the Afghan Women's Network was in New York they received verbal assurances from UN officials that there
should be a woman on the Special Mission but that they had not yet identified qualified candidates.

Now the matter is of great urgency. We cannot expect military factions like the Taliban to understand and accept the requirements that women work in offices, if the official UN delegations have no women members. We have urged that EVERY international delegation, whether UN, donors or NGOs should include women.

We would urge all member states of the UN General Assembly NOT to recognize the Taliban or any other military faction as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Although the Taliban control the largest geographic area, they are a military faction that has imposed their rule by force not by the participation and acceptance of the Afghan people. They have imposed a particularly brutal regime that has placed women and girls under siege. One Afghan woman described Kabul as "the biggest prison for women in the world".

Negotiations with the Taliban and other military factions must emphasize the importance of women's and girls' human rights as a requirement for all interim agreements to establish peace.

Support received

We welcome the support that we have received from human rights organizations around the world, such as the International League for Human Rights, Equality Now, Amnesty International, People's Decade for Human Rights Education, Working Group on the Human Rights of Women, Refugee Women in Development, Sisterhood is Global Institute, Women Living Under Muslim Laws and UN agencies.

In a press release dated October 7, 1996, Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that "Throughout the United Nations system, the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter are morally and legally binding, including its preambular statement of determination 'to reaffirm faith in human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of man and woman..." The Secretary-General noted that the scope of restrictions being applied against women and girls in Afghanistan "could also have serious repercussions on the ability of the United Nations to deliver programmes of relief and reconstruction." We welcome his strong reaffirmation of the basic principles of human rights for women and girls.

We ask for your support for the participation of Afghan women in the peace process and the guarantees of women's rights to employment outside the home and women's and girls' human rights to education and security.

We ask you not to recognize the Taliban or any other military faction as being the legitimate government of Afghanistan. We also request that the UN establish a permanent office for human rights in Kabul.

Thank you.
October 17, 1996

Kabul, the largest prison for women in the world

by the Afghan Women's Network, Islamabad, Pakistan

Where can we find the words from our hearts to share with the readers the suffering of the people of Kabul, especially the women and girls? Kabul has become the world's largest prison for women in the world. The women and girls have been confined to their homes by the military faction known as the Taliban. Women are experiencing the gradual death of despair. They see no future for themselves or their daughters.

The female population has been ordered to stay at home by the Taliban. They are forbidden to work. Women have always worked in Kabul. They are necessary for the functioning of the city. Most of the teachers in Kabul are women. Therefore, many boys have no teachers. Women and girls are banned from attending any schools or educational institutions.

Female patients in all hospitals were ordered by the Taliban to go home. Women cannot be treated by male doctors. Some women doctors and nurses have been allowed to return to work, but women cannot work with their male colleagues. Female medical workers must wear a complete covering from head to toe, known as the burqa, making it very difficult to treat their patients.

If women have to go out for food, medicine or other daily needs, they must cover themselves with a burqa and must be accompanied by a male family member. Even being covered completely is no protection. One woman was beaten because she was not wearing socks. Another woman who lifted her clothing to jump over a stream was beaten with a heavy rod by the Taliban.

Some people say that the Taliban have brought peace to Kabul. Taliban have put the women in the prison of their homes. This is not peace. Women have no weapons. They are being attacked and beaten by Taliban for no reason except the fact that they are women. This is not peace. This is war against women and girls. Whatever you bring by force cannot mean peace.

We are a group of Afghan women living in exile in Pakistan. As mothers and sisters we do not want to see our children soaked in blood. We do not want our daughters to grow up illiterate. We want to bring peace and human rights to our country, especially for women and girls. Peace means respect for people's human rights.

We ask all the readers to tell your government, the United Nations and the international human rights organizations that Afghan women must have the right to work outside their homes, that women and girls must have the right to education and that women and girls must be able to leave their homes without being harassed and beaten.

We need your help to bring the real peace to our homeland, Afghanistan.
Workshop:  
Report on Afghan Women's Delegation to the USA and Introduction to Fundraising

Outline of proposal for funding for Afghan Women's Network

Vision

1. Women's participation in the peace process in Afghanistan
2. Support for women's human rights:
   1. Women's right to employment outside the home
   2. Women's and girls' right to equal access to education, including a complete curriculum and all levels of education
   3. Women's and girls' right to security and mobility without harassment
3. Communication and leadership skills training for Afghan women

Activities

1. Regular consultation with UN agencies on gender issues and women's human rights
2. Develop relations with Pakistani women's organizations
3. Continue and strengthen relationship with women's organizations and human rights organizations internationally
4. Dialogue within Afghan communities regarding the peace process and women's human rights
5. Strengthen communication and cooperation among Afghan women in Peshawar, Islamabad, Mazar, Kabul and other areas within Afghanistan

Proposal:
What do we need to make a strong Afghan women's organization?

Summary of suggestions from four groups during workshop

I. Training: Need a consultant
   topics: Leadership
   proposal and report writing
   conducting meetings
   planning and conducting workshops
   Human Rights
   UN conventions
   Women's human rights in context of Islam
   Gender Awareness and Analysis
   Sectors of Health, education, income generation
   Communication skills
Office management
Networking and Advocacy
Refugee women around the world
Conflict Resolution
Women in the Peace Process

Participate in regional and international conferences and training sessions on related topics

English Language classes, particularly in report and proposal writing
(Note: this might be better carried out by the NGOs and UN agencies OR as an inter-agency effort)

Expenses: consultant’s fees, travel for consultant, some travel for AWN members to conferences and training sessions, photocopy of materials

II. Office

Need a small space within an existing organization, perhaps ACBAR or a UN agency

Staff: one person part time to communicate with all of the above listed under “Activities”, that is other women’s group inside and outside Afghanistan, international women’s and human rights groups, NGOs, UN agencies

Organize meetings and workshops
Send out invitations
Maintain files
Print and send out newsletter

Equipment:
  telephone, computer with modem, and fax (or access to fax)
  photocopier
  Desk, chairs, filing cabinet,

Supplies:
  stationery, computer supplies

Expenses:
  telephone, fax, email, photocopying, post

Possible Sources of Funding

Ourselves
Overseas Afghan Communities
Global Fund for Women
Embassies in Islamabad
UNICEF
UNHCR
UNDP
Canada Fund
Stories: Women of Kabul: Resistance to Taliban

These stories were told to Pamela Collett by two women who live in Kabul. She wrote them down as they were told to her without editing.

The Chaddars

One story is about two ladies walking down street in Kabul, Khirkhana district. A Datsun, full of Taliban, came by. They stopped the car, got out and started hitting the two ladies with rubber hoses filled with pellets.

Why don't you wear chadori? (a complete covering from head to toe also known as burqa), they shouted.

It is expensive, said the women. They covered their faces.

The Taliban asked: why did you come out of your houses?

The ladies started shouting back at the Taliban and threw their chaddars (large shawl usually worn covering the head and top of the body) away.

Both of the women pulled off their chaddars.

We don't want to wear even chaddar.

The women's heads were completely uncovered.

All the people were watching and laughing at the Taliban.

The Taliban got back in the Datsun and went away.

My relative with a shop on the street saw it.

The Bank

Another story:

One lady had an adopted son.

She came alone to the bank to get money.

Taliban started shouting at her, why did she come alone to the bank?

She replied that she needed money. She started shouting back at them.

They started hitting her with the rubber hose with pellets inside.

Maybe she was hurt too much.

She started bleeding from her face.

Someone took her to the hospital. She died there.

Her son came to the bank and asked where is my mother.

Your mother is in the hospital.

He went to the hospital and got the body.

A friend of mine who was working in the bank before the Taliban came heard it from her brother who is still working in the bank.

Women get ready

My friends in Kabul:

Most of the ladies say that if the Taliban start abusing them, they will get ready themselves. They said we are ready if they start hitting
We will hit them back
We cannot tolerate it if they hit us.
If they do the same behaviour to us (hitting) we cannot tolerate this

**Mullah police**

Boys and men are upset
The mullah in the mosque
writes their name in the attendance book.
They should be present five times daily.
In each family they know how many men there are.
They wrote the names
check each family in the mosque
The mullah knows.
Each mullah knows who is going to mosque
The mullah changed his behaviour since Taliban.
He's writing down their names
like a policeman.

The Taliban give a dollar to the children and ask, where are the weapons
In which house are there weapons
or Pansheri (an ethnic group opposed to Taliban)
or rich people
or have car or official.
Children don't know, but they get money.
Then they point out some family.
Taliban enter the house, shouting, bring the weapons
They don't listen to anybody
If the family has a car, they say that
the car is from the government
the cars are from Pansheris
they escaped from Kabul so you received their car
so we have to take it away.
Our family try not to let the children outside
because they are afraid the Taliban are coming and asking them questions.

**Beards**

At the beginning
edicts on radio
men all should wear turban or hat
and grow beards
at the beginning
later Taliban want to check
anybody without beard
stopped boys and men on the street
Haircuts

Taliban went to the university in the first days (of their takeover)
the teachers in the universities
proud and well educated
they took scissors and cut professors' hair in front of the students.
Some teachers locked themselves in their classrooms and refused to come out
It was shameful for the professors

Male students support female students

Kabul Medical Institute
at the beginning the boys went to the school
because the Taliban announced that all the male students should come
the boys went
later
the boys understood
thinking about the future,
Taliban said continue your studies
the boys escaped from the university
we don't want to continue until the girls are coming,
if we continue
we want to be with the girls.
They told the director of the University.
Many boys ran away, afraid
the Taliban put them in jail
or keep them in their own houses, turn it into a jail.
Some Pansheri people left their houses
Taliban put up their white flag and made it a jail.

All universities are closed
nobody went
boys refused
they just closed

Widow and child

There is a woman that got married in a village with a man.
in that time they start their life
they hadn't any children
Rocket hit their large house
and her husband was outside working.
She was with the in laws inside.
Only she survived the rocket attack.
Husband came home
made a funeral for all his dead relatives.
They decided to go to Kabul city
husband and wife
with no children
no family
just husband and wife left the village.
They got an apartment
in third Makroian in Kabul.
After one year
the woman had a baby.
After the baby was seven months old
her husband died in a bomb
in the center of Kabul
near the presidential palace.
The bomb killed a lot of people
It was about 5 months ago
She was left alone with her baby.
She decided to keep her baby
and be her baby's father and mother
and she started to work.
Her neighbors helped her find a job so that she could pay her expenses.

When Taliban came
what has she to do
she had a job in government
right now she has no job
she has to go to buy milk for her baby.
One day when she went out.
A Talib came and told her
what are you doing?
I want to buy milk for my baby.
Don’t come out of your home.
Don’t you have any male at home?
I don’t have anyone at home.
I don’t know if you do or don’t have anyone at home, so don’t come out.

She don't know what to do to pay for her and her baby son's lives
and how can she go out
she cannot pay for a
burqa or chardori.
The cheapest is 150,000 Afghanis (about $20-$25 US)
which is 4 months' salary.

She don't have anyone
She don't have anywhere to go that they help her.
She don't know what to do
Her neighbors help her a little
Her neighbors are poor too
If they are rich they will not live in Afghanistan.
All rich Afghans are living in Pakistan or other foreign countries.

My mother

My mother was so sad
why Taliban want to put us women in jail
make us like an animal in a zoo.
One day my mother told me
I have gone outside the home since I was 6 years old girl
and until now I was outside
I worked outside
I continued my education outside
right now they put me in jail
why do they want to make me crazy?

I said yes you are right, mother
38 years she is going outside of home.
My mother is 44
and right now
what is my mother doing
to keep from going crazy
she sews
washes the clothes.
My father has sent my two sisters
one bigger one littler
He sent them to continue their education to Peshawar.
My younger sister
she is about to graduate
she came to Pakistan to continue her education
small sister
she is 9 years old
My father sent them to Peshawar
because the big one is about to graduate
she will lose her chance to finish her studies
and the young one will forget the subjects.
We have relatives in Peshawar.
One brother and one of my sisters is in Kabul with me, my mother and father.

If I go to Peshawar I will lose my job
I cannot help my father to pay the expenses
my mother who is a primary teacher has no salary

She wants to go to the school
she loves her students more than her family
she misses them a lot
she says their names and their activities
their personality
She misses her students too much.

About 25 years she has been teacher
she started at 19 years old.

It's not okay if the Taliban allow only some women to work.
All the women should be allowed to work.
It's not fair if some work and some don't.
All need to work.

Kochae's story

Kochae is a 20 years old girl.
She has three sisters and she is the eldest one.
   Her mother is illiterate and her father is an engineer.

Kochae graduated from high school four years ago and she would have completed her university degree but her father was wounded in a rocket attack. Now his one hand and one leg don't work. Kochae has to work to pay all of the expenses of her family. She got a job with an NGO after four months and a lot of problems. After that Kochae and her family were happy due to the fact that her monthly salary is enough to pay their expenses.

After the Taliban came, she is at home and she doesn't know what to do. What will her office decide about her. What will she do for their monthly expenses? Also she is very afraid of going to the bazaar to buy things for her family because she doesn't have chadori and she cannot afford to buy it.

Remember the Onions

I am a woman that has worked outside the home before the Taliban came. I had to shop for my family because my husband is a driver and he goes to work at 6 a.m. and returns at 7:30 pm. After the Taliban came, I could not go to work and I cannot go to bazaar either. Because I don’t have chadori and I can’t afford to buy it because it is too expensive.

One day I saw that we were running out of everything and I decided to go to the bazaar and buy what we needed. I wore a big chaddar with hijab (long coat like a raincoat) and black socks and covered my face. But when I went out and bought some onions, four Talibs came up to me and asked why didn't you wear chadori. They started to beat me with a cable or hose...

( The woman telling the story described it as a big piece of cable or hose with something heavy inside. The Taliban brought these hoses or cables. She said she has never seen them in Kabul before the Talibs came. She called them “kebal” )
and they hit me twice. I became crazy. I lost control of my actions. I started to beat the Talibs with the onions. During the beating, two other Taliban that were farther away came up to help their friends. I started throwing the onions as hard as I could at them. I threw the onions so hard that they ran away. The people surrounding us was laughing and making fun of the Taliban.

The young woman telling this story about the woman who fought the Talib with onions smiled and said "When you think of the women in Kabul, remember the onions."
Followup Workshop:
proposal writing for Afghan Women’s Network


Conflict Resolution Network: Safia will discuss possibility of joint training and participation in the network for conflict resolution of NRC/NCA. Training plan should incorporate gender awareness and human rights. Afghan women should be incorporated at every level of the conflict resolution network and training plan. Invite representative of Conflict Resolution Network to attend next Afghan Women’s Network meeting.

Agenda:
1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Information Sharing
3. Plan: Afghan Women’s Network and ACBAR
4. Dream of money: what would you do
5. Review: money, sources, fundraising, needs of Afghan Women’s Network
6. Budgets: resource people
7. Letter of inquiry/concept paper
8. Sources of funding/role play
9. What do donors look for
10. Steps BEFORE writing a proposal
11. Rethink: what do we want money for? Followup subcommittee
12. Closing: Feedback/Resources/Next workshop

Plan
1. Welcome and Introductions
   Attendance sheet: sign in
   Warmup: Snowball: share something you did for peace or human rights this week

2. Information Sharing
   Go around the room: information to share about your organization, about Afghanistan, etc
   - Donor Appeal: conference postponed. Afghan women should attend January forum.
   - Stories from Kabul: onions
   - Dinner: Embassy of Finland, donor: Dutch Embassy
   - Quetta: Ariana School
   - Quetta: human rights training
   - Islamabad: Peace Exhibit Dec 1
   - Islamabad: followup workshop: Dec 5
   - Rights and Humanity: announcement: conference in Jordan in December

3. Plan: Afghan Women’s Network and ACBAR
   Do we share the same vision? peace, human rights and training for Afghan women
   Plan: work with ACBAR next 6 months
4. Dream of money: Stand in a circle: Each person say, what would she like to do in the near future if she had all the money she wanted for the Afghan Women’s Network

5. Review previous workshop: 4 small groups (Each on a chart)
   - Money: use and abuse
   - Sources of funds
   - Fundraising and Proposal Writing
   - Needs of Afghan Women’s Network

6. Budget: Presentation by resource people:
   What is a budget? How do you do a budget?
   Proposed budget for Human Rights workshop, co-sponsored by Afghan Women’s Network and ACBAR

7. Letter of inquiry/concept paper: Proposal for Afghan Women’s Network
   BEFORE writing a proposal, send a summary of your ideas in a letter or concept paper
   (P. 27 Examples of Proposal Outline, Fundraising Resource Book, Global Fund for Women)
   CHART, whole group:
   1. contact information
   2. organizational information
   3. Request: purpose and amount

8. Sources of funding: information gathered
   Role play: working for a funding agency: small groups What questions would you ask?

9. Overview: what do donors look for in organizations:
   (p. 9, Women, Money and Empowerment, Global Fund for Women)
   Discuss each point in large group
   CHART/HANDOUT: review each point and rate Afghan Women’s Network strengths and weaknesses
   Develop a plan to overcome weaknesses BEFORE fundraising

10. Steps BEFORE writing a proposal:
    (p. 12, Women, Money and Empowerment, Global Fund for Women)
    CHART/HANDOUT: Go through and explain steps

11. Rethink: Afghan Women’s Network/ACBAR:
    what do we want money for? Followup subcommittee, Concept paper/proposal

12. Closing
    • Feedback: what was good/what to improve about this workshop?
    • Thanks: to participants, facilitators,
    • Future workshops requested by participants? UN conventions, Human rights
    • Resource Center/ List: Sign up for copies booklets on fundraising, human rights materials on human rights education for organizations: Pamela
    • Set tentative date for next meeting and workshop
    • List: who to invite to future meetings and workshops
Sketches on Afghan situation displayed

Desk Report

ISLAMABAD—A two-day exhibition of sketches concluded here on Tuesday at Afghan Women’s Educational Centre which was organised by Afghan Women’s Network.

Hundred of students presented their sketches tilted ‘Peace in Afghanistan’. A large number of visitors from home as well as abroad took keen interest in it.

More than 350 sketches had been installed there of which everyone seemed to be overwhelmed with grief, and afflicted with sorrow. In most of the drawings, aircraft were shown bombing peaceful citizens. There was a galore of corpses everywhere but most of them remain unburied. In certain areas, even kites were depicted clawing the dead. A clear depiction shows devastated offices, crumbled buildings, blown up educational edifices destroyed hospitals and installations. Even religious rulers’ fickleness was also depicted in the sketches.

Taliban militia’s approach towards females has been delineated. Women educational institutions are bolted. Hospital nurses and female doctors are debarred from attending patients.

The drawings were displayed by the presenters of different age groups, ranging from four to 15 years.

The exhibition was the first of its kind in Islamabad. Palwasha, head of the Afghan Women’s Educational Centre, expressed her happiness and satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the exhibition and praised the young brilliant children, fed up with war. Asad, Haseena, Maaria, Ahmed and Aisha’s drawings won much appreciation.

2/12/96
Afghan Women’s Network

Workshop

- Report on delegation to AWID conference and New York
- Future of Afghan Women’s Network

Co-facilitators: Palwasha Hassan, Pamela Collett

Date: December 5, 1996   Place: WFP Afghanistan   Time: 8:30-4:30 p.m.

1. Afghan women’s delegation to USA: Palwasha
   Washington DC:
   Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference and presentation
   Working Group on Women’s Human Rights,
   Women Living under Muslim Law

   New York:
   Forum: one year anniversary of Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing
   UN: UNICEF, UNDP, UNIFEM, Center for Human Rights, Division for the
       Advancement of Women, Rosario Green, Special Advisor
   NGOs: International League for Human Rights, International Women’s
       Tribune Center, Equality Now, Peoples’ Decade for Human Rights Education
   Media: UN radio, NY Times, Canadian television

2. Effectiveness of Afghan women’s delegation: Pamela
   Advisory group: Unity Statement of October 2, 1996 supported women’s human
   rights to employment, education and security
   Statement by Boutros Boutros Ghali: Oct. 7, 1996
   Statement of UN High Commissioner on Human Rights
   International Statements of support

In preparation for the USA visit, we formulated our position that is, 1. Afghan women in
the peace process, 2. Support Afghan women’s rights to education, employment and
security 3. Training for Afghan women. In New York, agencies commented on how well
organized we were and how clear our statements were. We made an immediate impact,
which translated into a quick response when Taliban denied basic human rights of women
and girls in Kabul. The quantity and quality of the international response was a result of
the advocacy of the Afghan women’s delegation.
3. Future of the Afghan Women's Network: Palwasha

- Review our vision and values
  - women in the peace process
  - women’s human rights
  - training for Afghan women

- What projects best reflect that vision?
  - What have we already done?
    - examples: training for women, newsletter, peace exhibit, meetings, international communication (through email)
  - What else would we like to do?
    - examples: resource center, activities for children, gender workshops for men

- Small groups:
  - What would we like to continue?
  - What are our priorities? Choose the projects that we want (WRITE on CHART)
  - Each group choose 1 to 3 projects.
  - Write outline: project, persons responsible, resources needed: what do we have? what do we need?

- Large group:
  - Small groups present their projects and explain briefly
  - Compare all projects listed
  - Choose 3 most popular with all small groups

- What do we need to do those projects? Organization
  - Reorganize the Afghan Women’s Network
    - person responsible in each area
    - overall structure
    - membership
    - funding

- Funding: possible donors: share all contact information (CHART)

4. Proposal: Write a rough draft of ONE key project: Pamela

  - What are the steps BEFORE writing a proposal
  - What are the sections of a proposal?
  - Who will follow up?

Handouts: from AWID workshop:
Women, Money and Empowerment by the Global Fund for Women

Next workshop:
Introduction to Human Rights, including
Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Resources
Afghan Women’s Network
Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Documents list

from Meetings and AWID conference, Washington DC September 2-8 and New York, September 9-16, 1996

This list was prepared in New York. These materials were left in New York with UNICEF to be sent by pouch to Peshawar. As of December 6, 1996 only a few materials have arrived. Copies of some were made for the Afghan Women’s Network in Islamabad (stored at the Afghan Women’s Educational Center) and Peshawar (stored at DACAR and ACBAR).

Those marked with a * were considered to be the most useful.

Human Rights Watch

Questions & Answers about Human Rights Watch
Human Rights Watch Publications Catalog: 1996

Refugee Women in Development

* Women in NGO Leadership (2 copies)
* Refugee and Internally Displaced Women: A Development Perspective by The Brookings Institutions: Refugee Policy Group Project on Internal Displacement
* Refugee Women in Development: Empowerment through Leadership Development (brochure)
* Understanding Family Violence within US Refugee Communities: a training manual
* Leadership Development Model for Refugee Women: a replication guide (2 copies)

US State Department

The First Intra Afghan Inter Continental Conference in Search for Peace

Workshops: Sept. 4

* What is Advocacy? (1 page handout)
* Our Human Rights: a manual for women’s human rights education
* A Women’s Fundraising Handbook
* Women, Money and Empowerment
* Fundraising Resource Book

Literature from organizations

Human rights

• Centre for the Strategic Initiatives of Women: handouts on Women as peace builders, women in politics, women and the Shari’a, women’s rights
• International Human Rights Law Group: * Special Rapporteurs and Working groups of the UN Commission on Human rights
• Equality Now: 1994-5 Report
• Amnesty international: Afghanistan, International Responsibility for Human Rights disaster, Afghanistan, the world’s responsibility, Women in Afghanistan: a human rights catastrophe
• Internet resources: women and human rights
• Asian Womenews: Asian Women’s Human Rights Council, Manila
• World Conference on Human Rights: The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, June 1993

United Nations:
• Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
• Beijing Platform for Action
• The United Nations and the Status of Women
• UN action for Women
• One Year after Beijing

UNIFEM
• UNIFEM Fact Sheet
• Beyond Beijing: newsletter of UNIFEM WID, West Bank and Gaza Strip
• Women hold up half the sky
• UNIFEM in Beijing and Beyond
• Learning from Experience: Reflections on UNIFEM
• Empower tools: Technology for Women’s empowerment
• Putting Gender on the Agenda: guide to participating in UN world conferences
• UNIFEM: information packet

UNICEF
Women and gender in countries in transition

International Women’s Tribune Centre
• Woman source; Documentation Centre: Women Information and Communication
• Gender communications for the Third Millennium
• 20 years of communication strategies for social change
• The Tribune Issue No. 53,(prepare for Beijing) Issue 46 (Violence against women), Issue 45 (Women and law) , Issue 31 (Marketing) , 95 Preview, 95 Post view, Issue 55 *Using the Platform for Action
• Women and water (2 copies)
• feminist logos
• Woman: the password is action (2 copies)
• Images of Nairobi
Women's organizations:

Center for Women's Global Leadership
• Global Center News (2 copies)

Women living under Muslim laws
* • Women Laws Initiatives in the Muslim world
* • Women's Reproductive Rights in Muslim Communities and Countries: Issues and Resources

AWID
brochures and newsletters

DAWN
Newsletter: 3/95 and 4/95

Lila Pipipina
Newsletter, July 1996  Japanese Military Sexual Slavery
• Fourth Asian Women's Solidarity Conference

Forum for African Women Educationalists, FAWE
• Girls' Education: Why What Who How
• Girls Education: An Agenda for Change

Research
• National Council for Research on Women: Women's Research Network news
• Women marriage and education, case study in South Sumatra
• Bridge: Development and Gender in Brief, issue 1: environmental policy, Issue 2: poverty reduction strategies Issue 3: conflict and development

Training materials
• Guide to gender sensitive indicators: Canadian International Development Agency
• Global Fund for Women: A women's Fundraising Handbook
• Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
• brochure: Gender Justice training materials, * sample exercises: Gender Justice Sessions
• brochures: training guide for Participatory Learning and Action
• brochure: questions of difference, PRA, Gender and Environment
• Training manual: Increasing Women's Political Awareness and Consciousness, Asia Pacific Women in Politics Network

Reproductive Rights
• violations of women's reproductive rights
• Population Briefs: A New Agenda for Girls and Women
• Rape and Forced Pregnancy in War and Conflict (3 copies)
• Commitments to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: Framework for Action
Afghan Women's Network Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Documents list

* Women's Reproductive Rights: The International Legal Foundations

Health
- brochures: Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness

Political Participation:
- brochures: Women in Politics Program
- AZ Women's Vote 96
- brochure: Asia Pacific Women in Politics Resource Network
- Legislative Monitor on Women's Issues, Jan-Mar 1996, The Center for Legislative Development, Phillipines
- Women in Politics, Newsletter, Asia Pacific Women in Politics Resource Network

Gender and Development
Economic issues

WEDO: series on gender, environment and international economic issues
- no.1: Codes of Conduct for Transnational Corporations
- No. 2 Transnational Corporations at the UN
- no. 3 Who Makes the Rules? World Trade Organization
- No. 4 How secure is our food? GATT
- No. 5: Who Owns Knowledge? Who Owns the Earth? GATT
- No. 6 Who Decides where the Money goes? World Bank

- World bank publications
- Grameen bank: performance and sustainability
- Micro enterprise brochures
- Women's World Banking
* Empowerment of Women: Customer Survey Report, Nepal, USAID
* Empowering Women, by World Education Staff

NGOs
Save the Children USA
- A girls right to development equality and peace
- FACETS brochure
- Women child impact program

- Changing roles of NGOs promoting women at the United Nations

Catalogues of publications:
PACT publications
Human Rights Watch
Zed books: Women's Studies
The Feminist Press
Zed Books: new titles, April-September 1996
OXFAM: Resources for Development and Relief 1996
Human Rights Education materials from People's Decade for Human Rights Education

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• Our Human Rights: A Manual for Women’s Human Rights
  by Julie Mertus, in collaboration with Malika Dutt and Nancy Flowers
• Sauti Ya Sisi: A Tanzanian Women's Magazine, special international issue on Human Rights Education “Let Freedom Fly”
• Human Rights Education: A Personal Voyage (essay, introduction to a book) by Shulamith Koenig
• Flyers: collection of information on Organizing Committee for People’s Decade for Human Rights Education
• Learning Reflecting and Acting for a Hum Rights Future: a Training manual for the education of the human right to housing in urban Communities
• Human Rights: the new consensus, Regency Press in association with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees
• Educating for Hum dignity: Learning about Rights and Responsibilities, a K-12 Teaching Resource by Betty A Reardon
• Towards a Methodology for the Popularization of Women’s Hum rights by Maria Suarez Toro and Roxana Arroyo Vargas
• Draft Training Manual on Women’s Human Rights Education by Manisha Gunasekra
• women’s Human Rights Education a Training Manual, Lila Pilipina
• The Bells of Freedom with Resource Materials for Facilitators of Non Formal Education, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
• Human rights Education for Women An Islamic Perspective, Zeinab Abbas
• Human rights Education: The Promise of the Third Millennium? Upendra Baxi
• Women’s human rights in daily living together
• Women’s rights as Human Rights a training manual, South Africa
• Empowering Women at the Grassroots: a manual for women’s human rights education by Meghna Guhathakurta & Khadija Lina, Bangladesh
Afghan Women's Network

Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Contact Information
Distribution list

- Afghan Women’s Network Campaign for Peace and Human Rights

Report on Afghan women’s delegation to Association of Women in Development (AWID) conference, Washington DC, USA and visit to NGO and UN agencies, New York, USA, September 1-16, 1996

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Sima Wali, Refugee Women in Development, Washington DC
Roberta Chew, Afghanistan Affairs, United States State Department, Washington DC
Rani Parker, Save the Children (USA), Washington, DC
Caroline Brac de la Perriere, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, France
Distribution list

- *Afghan Women's Human Rights and Participation in the Peace Process,*

Documents from the Afghan Women's Network and the Advisory Group on Gender Issues in Afghanistan, compiled by Pamela Collett and updated November 1996

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