



Newsletter – International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

December 2004

GENDER AND A CULTURE OF PEACE

We were glad to receive a lot of positive feedback for the first issue of our Culture of Peace newsletter. Through its dissemination, the Culture of Peace Coordination office aims to provide information on different aspects of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), for which UNESCO acts as lead agency within the UN system. Evidently, attempts to create a true Culture of Peace are required at all levels of society and in very different areas of public life. The *UN Declaration and Programme of Action (A/RES/53/243)* has defined eight such areas and thus provides a guide to the indispensable components of peace-building. In order to illustrate the contents of the Programme of Action and to provide clearly defined practical examples, different issues of the Culture of Peace newsletter focus on particular themes or regions.

This issue's **overall theme is “Gender and a Culture of Peace”**, referring directly to one of the action areas of the *Declaration and Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace*, namely “Actions to ensure equality between women and men”. In this respect, the latter document sets out the following aims:

- “[...] Integration of a gender perspective into the implementation of all relevant international instruments;
- Further implementation of international instruments that promote equality between women and men;
- Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, with adequate resources and political will, and through, *inter alia*, the elaboration,

implementation and follow-up of the national plans of action;

- Promotion of equality between women and men in economic, social and political decision-making;
- Further strengthening of efforts by the relevant entities of the United Nations system for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women;
- Provision of support and assistance to women who have become victims of any forms of violence, including in the home, workplace and during armed conflicts. [...]”

[Source: A/RES/53/243, *Declaration and Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace*]

These Culture of Peace objectives highlight the need for a gendered perspective in addressing peace issues. Significantly, endeavours for gender equality and for peace are based on similar means: in both cases, education is a key tool to change attitudes and behaviours.

In recent years, the role of women in peace-building has been increasingly recognized. One of the greatest steps forward in this area was the unanimous adoption of **Security Council resolution 1325 on “women, peace and security”** (<http://www.womenwarpeace.org/toolbox/1325.pdf>) on 31 October 2000. Women’s groups have used the resolution for their advocacy work (see article on the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in this issue). Different parts of the UN system are also involved in the resolution’s implementation (see for instance the article on UNESCO’s Section for Gender Equality and Development in the Sector for Social and Human Sciences). UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, has recently published a document

on its role in supporting the resolution (see *Women, Peace and Security: UNIFEM Supporting Implementation of 1325* – this report is available via <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/supporting1325.pdf>).

The Culture of Peace concept also highlights that “peace” extends beyond political or social conflict: it must be promoted at all levels, including in families and one’s everyday environment. The **fight against interpersonal violence** is therefore an element of constructing a Culture of Peace (see article “WHO: UN Collaboration for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence” in newsletter 1/2004). Many instances of interpersonal violence are gender-based. Since 1994, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences reports on this issue. Furthermore, the *Beijing Declaration* – adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 – called for the eradication of all kinds of violence against women and girls. Since then, many efforts have been undertaken to tackle and eradicate gender-based violence. Most recently, the UN Secretary-General’s report on *Women, Peace and Security* (October 2004) has drawn attention to the need for pressure on conflict parties and for an end to impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes against humanity.

Seeing that the Beijing Conference will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2005, it is appropriate that “equality between women and men” will be a focus theme of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace in 2005. This newsletter aims to make a contribution to this and to encourage organizations to share their experiences with other actors.

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Editorial note:

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Disclaimer: The Coordination office is not responsible for the contents of NGO projects featured on its website (<http://www.unesco.org/cp>) or in this newsletter. The ideas and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect UNESCO’s point of view. The designation and presentation of the contributions do not implicate UNESCO regarding the jurisdiction of the countries, territories, cities or zones, nor their frontiers or authorities.

UNESCO and the Culture of Peace

UNESCO’s Work on Gender and Peace: Activities of the Section for Women and Gender Equality in the Bureau of Strategic Planning

Several of UNESCO’s central services, sectors and field offices tackle the issues of gender equality and conflict. The **Section for Women and Gender Equality** in the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP/WGE) is responsible for gender mainstreaming at UNESCO’s Headquarters and in its Field Offices. As regards UNESCO’s work on gender and peace, the ultimate objective is to strengthen the Organization’s ability to create the conditions for women and men alike to enjoy human development and security, and to build societies where women and

men can reach their full human potential and participate in the development of their societies, sharing its wealth and benefits on the basis of parity. The Organization not only assists Member States in building a culture of peace in the minds of women and men by reinforcing and supporting women’s capacity for leadership and non-violent conflict resolution and prevention, but also promotes the elimination of stereotyped expectations and discriminatory attitudes and behaviours. Women’s priorities and vision of development goals and

approaches are hence addressed and promoted through greater participation of women at all levels and in all areas of UNESCO's action, and through region-specific programmes and activities in the framework of the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

One concrete example was the organization, by the Section for Women and Gender Equality and The Suzanne Mubarak International Women's Movement for Peace, of the **Women in the Service of Peace seminar in June 2004** at UNESCO Headquarters. In line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that calls for a wider participation of women in peacemaking, the aim of the seminar, through concrete recommendations, was to encourage increased participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and in the peace process, and to discuss how women can bring different perspectives to peace to shape the futures of their communities. The key speakers at the seminar were: Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt; Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN Secretary General; Mrs Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO; HH Sheikha Hessa Saad Al Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Chair of the Arab Council of

Businesswomen and Chair of the Kuwaiti Committee of Businesswomen; Dame Margaret Anstee, former UN Under-Secretary General; Dr Vjosa Dobruna, former Member of the United Nations Interim Administrative Structure of Kosovo; Mrs Asha Hagi Elmi, Chair of the association "Save the Somali Women and Children".

The Suzanne Mubarak International Women's Movement for Peace was established in 2003 to reflect on and recommend concrete steps for women to foster peace. The aim of the Movement, a non-profit international association, is to reinforce the impact of the programs, organizations and institutions working for a world of peace.

"Peace is not just about the absence of war...It is safety from many sorts of hardships such as poverty, scarce resources, violations of human rights and denial of access to a good quality of life." (Mrs Suzanne Mubarak)

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The Gender Equality and Development Section of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences, its Current Activities, and the "Women for a Culture of Peace" Programme

One of the strategic objectives of the **Gender Equality and Development Section in the Sector for the Social and Human Sciences** is to explore the gender dynamics of conflict, peace-building and reconstruction: it examines the ways in which women and gender relations are involved in and affected by global tensions and armed conflicts, and it promotes women's involvement in conflict transformation. In doing so, the Section aims at assisting in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and highlighting the links between conflict and women's human rights. These activities build on previous UNESCO work in this area, including the work accomplished on "masculinities and violence" and on the construction of a culture of peace.

With its strengthened focus on policy-oriented research, advocacy and networking, the **Section for Gender Equality and Development** has begun a long-term programme. During the current UNESCO biennium, research is being undertaken in the Great Lakes region of Africa on issues such as the contribution of African cultures to women's empowerment and the impact of the Congolese

conflict on violence against women. In the coming months, the Section will publish research papers from the conference "Understanding gender equalities" which was organized in Njoro, Kenya in April 2004 by the universities of Egerton and Hull. In addition to this, an expert group meeting of gender specialists from the Great Lakes region will be held in February 2005, with a view to identifying the strategic needs of the region's women with regard to the social and human sciences, as well as jointly elaborating a programme of action.

UNESCO's Section for Gender Equality and Development also seeks to empower women in the Palestinian Territories, with the objective of strengthening their capacity to contribute to peace and development processes. Following a period of consultations and meetings, a proposal has been made for the establishment of a Palestinian Women's Resource Centre, which is to serve as an observatory and whose activities are to cover policy-oriented research, capacity-building and the promotion of women's participation in decision-making.



From 1996 to 2001, the **Women and a Culture of Peace Programme (WCP)**, one of the predecessors of the Gender Equality and Development Section in the Social and Human Sciences Sector, was involved in UNESCO's follow-up work to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Its principal priorities and activities were:

- a) Supporting women's initiatives for peace;
- b) Empowering women for democratic participation in political processes to increase their capacity and impact in economic and security issues;
- c) Contributing to gender-sensitive socialization and training for non-violence and egalitarian partnerships with a special focus on boys and young men

Several events were organized, including a Pan-African Women's Conference on a Culture of Peace

and Non-Violence (1999) and an "Asian Women for a Culture of Peace" Conference in cooperation with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and ESCAP (2000). Furthermore, WCP initiated special projects in Africa (for example case studies on women's traditional peace-building techniques) and in the Mediterranean. The latter focused on strengthening women's networks in the Balkan region, meetings such as "Women, Promoters of Peace" (in Tunisia) as well as providing intellectual support for a Forum of Women Artists from the Mediterranean for a Culture of Peace. Publications included the *Women Say No to War* photo album (1999), *Towards a Women's Agenda for a Culture of Peace* (1999), *Male Roles, Masculinities and Violence: a Culture of Peace Perspective* (2000) and the inter-agency document *Best Practices in Peace-Building and Non-Violent Conflict Resolution*. Furthermore, training manuals on *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution to build a Culture of Peace* (with FAWE) and *Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective: a Prototype Study Unit for Teacher Education* were published in 2001.

UNESCO's commitment to research and operational projects concerning the linkages between gender and conflict is therefore a long-term one. Appropriately, the efforts undertaken as part of the "Women and a Culture of Peace" programme inform the Organization's activities with regard to the dimensions of gender and conflict.

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The UN System and the Culture of Peace:

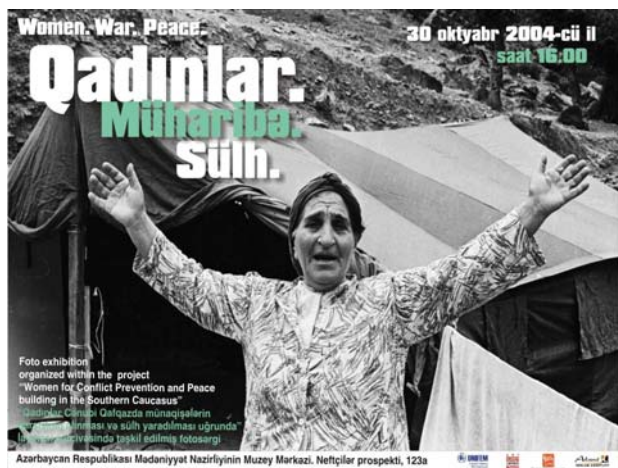
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM): Promoting a Culture of Peace

Where there is no active or formal peace process underway, women work to build a culture of peace through national or international dialogue and collaboration. Networking can be a powerful tool for women as they seek to have a positive impact on countries and regions wracked by conflict. Networks bring women together around crucial issues of common concern and strengthen their power as a

constituency and their ability to advocate on behalf of peace and gender equality. A key aspect of UNIFEM's work towards peace-building is its support for national and regional women's networks, including in the Southern Caucasus, Arab States, Latin America, Asia Pacific and countries in Africa. This article describes programmes and activities in the Southern Caucasus. More information on this is

available via
<http://www.womenwarpeace.org/supporting1325.pdf>.

UNIFEM's *Women for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in the Southern Caucasus* has supported creative initiatives around peace building through film and education. The films are the result of a competition held in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. Over six hundred young people throughout the region, between the ages of 8 and 22, took part in a film competition, creating one-minute films on "Youth and Peace". These films explored issues of conflict resolution and peace-building and were shown at festivals and media events throughout these three countries by a wide range of stakeholders, including national and international NGOs, local and national TV networks, as well as UNIFEM and UN Agencies. In Georgia, for instance, UNICEF showed the films at the Tbilisi launch of its global "Leave No Child Out" campaign. The winning films were also entered in contests worldwide, and many won prizes, honourable mentions or other recognition. One film won a UNICA Medal at the Croatian *Minute Movie Up* film competition in May 2004. Another won the first prize in the short film category of the *Kids for Kids World Film Festival* in Rome. Most recently, one of one-minute videos received The Kenneth F. and Harle G. Montgomery Prize for Best Child-Produced Film or Video 2004 at the International Children's Film Festival in Chicago. The extraordinary publicity and media coverage, as well as the honours and other positive feedback the films received, acknowledged the potential of women and youth as peace-builders.



Despite the central role women have played in initiating dialogue and reconciliation, most approaches to peace-building have either ignored or marginalized issues of gender and women. Women

consistently remain a minority in participating in conflict transformation activities, including formal peace negotiations; they receive less attention than men in peace-building policies and gender analysis rarely informs peace-building strategies. UNIFEM's Southern Caucasus programme aims to back women's commitment to the maintenance of a long-term peace. Believing that support for an inclusive peace movement is crucial at both community and policy levels, UNIFEM works with decision makers to create an enabling environment for inclusive dialogue while at the same time stimulating grassroots demands for engagement.

A series of trainings and workshops took place throughout Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. One result was the formation of national coalitions for peace in each country (Coalition 1325 in Azerbaijan, Peace Coalition and Syunik Peace Club in Armenia, and Unity of Women for Peace Network in Georgia). These national coalitions in turn formed a regional alliance, establishing the Southern Caucasus Regional Coalition – "Women for Peace". This coalition is the first regional mechanism of its kind supporting women to be involved in joint regional actions.

Finally, local print and broadcast media and educational institutions have also proven able to stimulate discussion and thereby raise awareness of the contributions women can make – and indeed are already making – to creating a culture of peace. UNIFEM-supported advocacy efforts have been multi faceted resulting in the printing of over 500 books of postage "peace" stamps (one for each of the three countries in the region) and the production of a regional calendar featuring artworks from all three countries with the theme "women for peace." At academic institutions, curriculum on gender and peace-building is now offered in 24 institutes of higher education. The University in Sukhumi also offers the course, where questions of peace and security are a daily concern and reality. Opening discussions about women's role in conflict prevention and peace-building helps to increase knowledge around these issues, and to create a cadre of sensitised future decision-makers and networks advocating for conflict prevention and peace-building.

In addition to its operational activities, UNIFEM is active in the fields of analysis, advocacy and awareness-raising. UNIFEM currently works in over 30 conflict affected countries. Building on its presence in conflict zones, and long-term partnerships with women's organizations, UNIFEM has developed a four-pronged framework for action

that touches on each of the 8 domains of the Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace: a) increasing the availability of targeted information on the impact of conflict on women and their role in conflict prevention and peace building, b) strengthening approaches to protection and assistance for women affected by conflict, c) fostering the contribution of women to post conflict peace-building at national, regional and international levels

and d) mainstreaming gender into transitional justice processes such as administrative, constitutional, legislative, judicial and electoral reform in conflict-affected areas.

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NGOs and the Culture of Peace

In this section, we present examples from non-governmental organizations registered on our website, thus seeking to illustrate different ways of working for a Culture of Peace. UNESCO is not responsible for the contents of these NGO projects and – unless explicitly stated – does not act as an official partner.

IFOR's Women Peacemakers Programme

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is one of the oldest international associations committed to the promotion of non-violence: founded in 1919 by Christian pacifists, IFOR is a multi-faith movement for conflict resolution and reconciliation, with currently 71 branches, groups and affiliates in about fifty different countries. In 1997, IFOR established a "**Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP)**", aimed at supporting and strengthening women's peacemaking initiatives. In doing so, it empowers women peacemakers and raises gender sensitivity within the peace movement. "Gender" refers to social relationships between men and women, and how these relationships and roles are shaped by society. As a faith-based movement for non-violence, IFOR works for peace and justice – subjects that are common to all world religions. Recently, the different faiths have also seen significant discussion with regard to the role of women, gender justice and a more equal relationship between women and men.

There are direct linkages between the issues of peace and justice on the one side, and gender on the other: racism, sexism as well as ethnic and religious discrimination are based on the idea that some people are inherently "better" than others. Challenging this belief is the beginning of building a culture of peace and non-violence. The seeds of a culture of violence are often planted when boys are raised to think that violence or domination are signs of masculinity, or when girls are raised to think that passivity or obedience are signs of femininity. Furthermore, violence within the family helps instil an

acceptance of dominance and control patterns, thus creating attitudes and behaviour, which tolerate violence throughout society. It is therefore evident that violence is both a matter for the private and the public sphere, and that gender has to be taken into account when working for a culture of peace.

The Women Peacemakers Programme is based on an understanding that without peace, development is impossible – and that without women, neither peace nor development can take place. Its main activities are:

- An annual training of women trainers in active non-violence
- Active non-violence trainings for women, with an emphasis on gender (trainings have taken place in Aceh, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Romania, the Thai-Burma border, Zimbabwe and elsewhere)
- Regional consultations for women from different sides of armed conflicts
- Exchange programs for women in peace organizations
- Regional gender trainings
- Media trainings

In past October alone, WPP activities included an international women's consultation in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which from 3 to 8 October addressed female non-violence trainers, as well as a workshop on "women peacemakers and the media", held in Zambia from 26 September to 2 October. The different WPP undertakings are not one-off events:

for instance, participants of the training workshops return to their countries and found women-led groups for peace. In this respect, the initial efforts of WPP mark the beginning of a long-term commitment. WPP also links up women with resources and organizations that can provide logistical and financial support to income generating projects. The latter re-emphasises the way in which the Women Peacemakers Programme recognizes the interrelated

nature of gender, peace and sustainable economic and social development.

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The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF): Women and Peace-Building

The twentieth century has been labelled as the century of world-wide violence, conflict and confrontation. The pyramid of violence from the apex to the base has been constructed on components of conflicts among states, among social groups and within the community and the family. As the intensity and degree of violence among countries increases, women in almost every society have become more and more insecure. The burden of unrest, unemployment and displacement falls heavier and heavier on families. Understanding the different elements of violence against women has taken a long period of research by the international community, and the rules of international criminal and humanitarian law remained silent for a long time. With women being victims of rape in civil wars and international wars whilst also suffering sexual abuse and rape in non-conflict settings, the international women's movement and different civil-society organizations made concerted efforts to bring about legislative changes. Countries subsequently moved towards finding rules and regulations for the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

It is in this context that one can assess and evaluate the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The resolution has given women the political possibility to participate as equal partners in the process of negotiating peace in conflict-ridden communities. Significantly, it was on the basis of this resolution that women politicians were invited to attend meetings that formed new governments in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since its adoption in 2000, res. 1325 has been the subject of a large number of workshops, seminars and conferences. Its text has been translated into several languages, and efforts are being made to increase the overall number of versions. The project **"Peacewomen" of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)** – managed from the association's New York office –

has collected and collated a remarkable database on the results and recommendations of such endeavours. Its monthly newsletter provides up-to-date information on case studies and how women have fared on the ground. Altogether, "Peacewomen" identifies eighteen themes, including conflict prevention, disarmament, HIV/AIDS, economic rights, landmines, human rights, violence against women and trafficking. The "Peacewomen" online portal (<http://www.peacewomen.org/>) complements the web portal initiated by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (<http://www.womenwarpeace.org/>)

To involve women in peace-making and peace-building requires that they are acknowledged not only as beneficiaries but also as contributors to peace. Experience shows that, as citizens, women are ready to be involved at all levels of power-sharing. Research from countries, which have elected women as heads of state and prime ministers also, indicates that the political empowerment of women is closely tied to their economic status. Significantly, in situations when women become combatants, the key question is not so much one of equal opportunities, but rather linked to the impact of extreme poverty. The latter is a key obstacle in the implementation of resolution 1325. Added to this is the role of coercion in conflict settings, which inserts individuals into a cycle of violence. These observations underline that power structures and institutions of governance are not yet geared towards non-violent and peaceful ways of living. It is therefore necessary to work at different levels of society in order to transform a culture of war into culture of peace.

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The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) and its Projects on “A World of Peace”

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) has chosen “A World of Peace” as overarching theme for its 2002-2005 programme of activities. Both the international office and its over 100 national branches have therefore launched a wide range of activities pertaining to a culture of peace.

Taking into account BPW’s nature as an association with an exclusively female membership, the linkages between peace-related endeavours and gender-specific activities are self-evident. One example is an initiative of BPW Brazil: entitled “**Women as Agents of Peace**”, it covers a range of different activities, including the collection of over 55,000 signatures for UNESCO’s Manifesto 2000 and the publication of the booklet “Ethics Code for Peace”. The latter provides concrete examples of actions for peace; 1,000 copies were distributed. Furthermore, from 2000 to 2002, a TV programme entitled “Planet Peace” was produced for a cable channel in Sao Paulo, and “Peace-BUILDER Certificates” have been awarded since 2003. The lessons of the “Women as Agents of Peace” project led to the development of a twin programme, “Youth as Agent of Peace”, which was designed in partnership with the Centro de Educação para a Paz (CEPAZ).

BPW affiliates also deal with other Culture of Peace dimensions, including the **fight against discrimination and intolerance**. For instance, BPW New Zealand has conducted workshops with local refugee and migrant women resulting in publication of a booklet about “Resettlement Issues for Refugee and Migrant Women” that is being used as a resource by Government agencies and NGOs. Through on-going joint activities and projects in partnership with indigenous Maori women, BPW NZ seeks to overcome prejudice as well as working towards the integration of marginalized groups, for instance, by conducting shopping and cooking classes with local female immigrants.

With regard to another Culture of Peace aspect – namely **social inclusion** – BPW Thailand has been active by running skill-training programmes for women in jails in several provinces: Bangkok, Thonburi, Lumpang, Khon Kaen, Phuket, and Kalasin since 2002. This activity will extend to Chiang Mai in 2005. The skills enable women inmates to earn

income while they are in jail as well as after they are release from prison. To recognize their skills, BPW Thailand also organized a National competition of products made by women inmates in 2004. To further encourage them to learn, BPW Thailand also donates used computers and over 4,600 books to women prison in Thonburi (*Thantasatarn Ying Thonburi*).



In addition to the activities of individual branches, the Federation’s international office runs a project in cooperation with BPW Sri Lanka: the **project “BPW Global Peace Village”** was launched in 2003 in Illukpitiya in the Medirigirya region of Sri Lanka. Most of the village population are internally displaced people, having been victims of conflict. On one level, the project objective is to provide a solid infrastructure and proper housing for a village of 634 people. Beyond this, however, it aims at laying the foundations for the community’s sustainable economic and social development. Each family will be given 40 perches of land for housing and agriculture, as well as receiving skills training in health and agricultural matters. The inhabitants are being involved in community matters, thus strengthening identification and self-reliance. The project thus recognizes the need to break the poverty cycle when trying to build long-lasting peace. One aspect of conflict and migration is the heavy burden placed on women who often head families and are the sole generators of income, yet also the first ones to feel the impact of poverty. As part of the “BPW Global Peace Village” activities, the empowerment of women therefore plays a particularly important role, for instance by means of education.

The Global Peace Village does, however, go beyond benefiting the actual village population: by providing access to water, facilities and roads, it also has an impact upon the wider region. Furthermore, the organizers hope that it becomes a replicable model. As the village is ethnically mixed, it thus aims to highlight how integration can be achieved and how the consequences of conflict can be overcome.

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The Sierra Leone Chapter of FAWE: Constructing a Culture of Peace through the Education of Girls

The Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) was created in 1992 with the aim of "supporting girls and women to acquire education for development". Its activities hence centre on the provision of schooling and non-formal forms education. The organization consists of 33 National Chapters all over the African continent, with an international secretariat based in Nairobi.

Having been founded in 1995, FAWE Sierra Leone is made up of twenty-four branches and five hundred and forty members countrywide. Through partnership with bodies and organizations such as UNICEF, PLAN International, the BANYAN Tree Foundation, Cord Aid UK, the German Embassy in Sierra Leone, and Children In Crisis (UK), the Chapter has been able to work towards its goals. Given Sierra Leone's emergence from a decade of civil war, education plays a particular role in laying the foundations for a peaceful future.

Several of the organisation's ongoing activities directly engage with the linkages between gender, violence and education. For instance, a project in Kabala in the country's Northern Province promotes the **re-integration of female ex-combatants and camp followers**. This rehabilitation project aims to provide them and their children to adjust to a peace situation, to regain their self-esteem and become self-reliant through specialized skills training and crèche services. Other branches of the National Chapter have run counselling services for female clients as well as setting up trauma-healing workshops.

Furthermore, FAWE Sierra Leone provides **training courses on education for a Culture of Peace**, which have been organized both at a national and a sub-regional level. A special training module for these courses was designed in 1999; since the start of the

project, over 40,000 people aged between 5 and 60 years have benefited from it.

A third strand of the Sierra Leone Chapter's peace-related activities focuses on **sexual and gender-based violence**: FAWE Sierra Leone runs programmes for female victims, as well as offering services for survivors of gender-based violence. They are integrated into other community services and include counselling, health care, skills training, adult literacy, and individual or community legal support. Furthermore, FAWE offers training sessions for facilitators, thereby raising awareness of the effects of gender-based violence and educating people for counselling and trauma-healing sessions. As a way of complementing these endeavours, FAWE Sierra Leone has launched a sensitisation and advocacy programme through national TV and radio stations.

Apart from activities tackling the country's post-conflict situation and the prevention of violence, FAWE's has established a number of other educational projects. Whilst these are not explicitly dealing with violence and conflict, they are aimed to lay the **foundations for the country's sustainable economic and social development** – thus working to create a basis for sustainable peace. Past and current activities include the following:

- Scholarship programme for poor and needy girls in educational institutions in the country.
- Management of non-fee-paying primary and secondary schools, particularly for disadvantaged and displaced girls
- Skills-training centres for pregnant girls/girl mothers throughout the country
- Management of two early child development centres for both sexes of children of both sexes aged 2-5 years.
- Research on female participation in education.

- Non-Formal Rapid Education Programmes for out-of-school youths and female adults

Owing to its experience with education in a conflict and post-conflict environment, the FAWE Chapter has also been able to assist reconstruction efforts in Sierra Leone's neighbouring country **Liberia**: FAWE Sierra Leone cooperates with FAWE Liberia in providing **non-formal rapid education** for 4,000 out-of-school children, as well as training for 1,000 facilitators within a twelve-month period. This programme also incorporates the "Education for a Culture of Peace" course, which had previously been

devised and applied by FAWE Sierra Leone. These activities, in their specific context, highlight how education from a gender perspective is directly related to development, peace and non-violence. Educational efforts thus contribute to the construction of a Culture of Peace, stressing that the latter can only be attained by work at different levels and with different groups of society.

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News in Brief:

Unless otherwise mentioned, the activities featured in this section are not UNESCO project. Their inclusion in this newsletter does not constitute an official endorsement. However, Culture of Peace actors may find them relevant for their activities, and we therefore invite you to share news on your activities with us.

Gender and a Culture of Peace

- **New UN Guide on Gender and Peacekeeping:** In October 2004, the United Nations published its *Gender Resource Package for Peacekeeping Operations* for UN staff at Headquarters and in the field. It seeks to integrate concerns of women into the workings of missions and reflects a trend towards tackling gender issues in peacekeeping. As the UN News Service pointed out, there had only been two peacekeeping missions with gender advisers in 2000, "a figure which has jumped to ten today.". The Department of Peacekeeping also has a permanent gender advisor. The guide contains 228 pages as well as a CD ROM; the initial number of prints is 3,500, with French translation expected soon. More information are available via <http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbpu/genderpack.aspx> .
- **Online discussion on violence against women at WomenWatch:** Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (1995) identified three strategic objectives with regard to violence against women, namely (i) integrative measures for its prevention and elimination, (ii) studies on the causes and consequences of violence and on the elimination of trafficking of women, and (iii) assistance for victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking. In order to assess the challenges and achievements in regard to these goals, the WomenWatch portal organises an e-discussion, which started in October 2004. It will mark a contribution to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and of the Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (2000). Further information is available via <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/forums/review/> .
- **Conference on "Women Defending Peace":** from 22 to 24 November 2004, the Suzanne Mubarak International Women's Peace Movement and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs held a conference entitled "Women Defending Peace". The event brought together around 300 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, discussing ways of strengthening women's role in peace processes. Further information is available through the website of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (<http://www.dcaf.ch/wdp>) and by email (wdp@dcaf.ch).
- **Web Portal on "Women in Law and Development in Africa":** WiLDAF/FeDDAF, an NGO network established in 1999, has recently launched a website with details on NGO meetings relating to the follow-up process of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Entitled "Women in Law and Development in Africa", it will

also lead to the creation of a specific Beijing+10 Knowledge Portal. The website can be reached via <http://www.wildaf-ao.org/eng/>.

- **Study on “Women Reporting War”:** The study is available online via the following link: sponsored by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, the International News Safety Institute (INSID) has published a survey on the threats and dangers encountered by female war reporters. The study’s overall aim was to establish ways of improving safety for journalists in conflict situations. The report is available online via the following link: <http://www.newssafety.com/stories/insi/WRWFinalReport.doc>
- **World Bank publications:** a World Bank book on *Gender, Conflict, and Development* was published last month. Written by Tsjeard Bouta, Georg Frerks and Ian Bannon, it establishes links between the World Bank’s work on conflict and its efforts for gender mainstreaming. The publication can be ordered through the World Bank’s website (<http://publications.worldbank.org>). In addition to this, a research worker paper by Andrew Morrison, Mary Ellsberg and Sarah Bott, entitled *Addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Latin American and Caribbean Region: a Critical Review of Interventions* can be downloaded via the organization’s website (http://econ.worldbank.org/files/39678_wps3438.pdf). It contains examples of good practice with regard to interventions to prevent gender-based violence.
- **Website on women’s human rights in conflict situations:** a non-governmental organization, the website of the Coalition for Women’s Human Rights in Conflict Situations, has recently launched a website on women’s human rights in conflict situations. It can be accessed via <http://www.womensrightscoalition.org> and focuses on gender-based violence and transitional justice.

Culture of Peace in General:

- **IBE project and publication on “Education, Conflict and Social Cohesion”:** From 2002 to 2003, the International Bureau of Education (IBE) coordinated a project on “Curriculum Change and Social Cohesion in Conflict-Affected Societies”. It has now led to a publication entitled *Education, Conflict and Social Cohesion*, which focuses on societies as diverse as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Guatemala, Lebanon and Mozambique, Northern Ireland, Rwanda and Sri Lanka. Each of the featured studies examines the potent role of curriculum policy in reconstructing social and civic identities and the challenges that policy makers in each of these societies have been confronted with in terms of changing definitions of national citizenship. *Education, Conflict and Social Cohesion* argues that if processes of education reform are to be meaningful contributions to reconciliation and peace-building, the subtle and complex relationships between schooling and conflict need to be explicitly recognized and examined. The book can be ordered through UNESCO Publishing (http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_LivreB49), and the IBE website contains additional information on the project (see <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/International/Social%20Cohesion/scheme.htm>).
- **EURED initiates teacher-training course on “Human Rights and Peace Education in Europe”:** The European Network for European Education as Peace Education (EURED) has recently inaugurated its two year teacher-training course on “Human Rights and Peace Education in Europe” – the initial one-week seminar took place in Gernika from 24 to 30 July 2004. The course is taught by an international group of distinguished peace educators; its curriculum was developed as part of an EU-sponsored project. Since 2002, it has been actively supported by the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO. Further information is available via <http://www.aspr.ac.at/eured.htm>.
- **UNESCO Leaders Course offered by the UNESCO Centre San Sebastian:** With the support of the UNESCO Training Centre Florida-Eskola, the San Sebastian UNESCO Centre organises a “Distance Course for the Training of UNESCO Leaders” (*CDFAU*). It provides information on the United Nations system and UNESCO through its objectives, activities and programs. The course helps promote the creation of UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs and general participation in UNESCO programmes. Further information is available via the San Sebastian UNESCO Centre (email: unescoeskola@retemail.es; web: <http://www.unescoeskola.org>).

UNESCO's Culture of Peace website (<http://www.unesco.org/cp>) includes an **events calendar and a project database** for the International Decade. On these pages, Culture of Peace actors can disseminate information on relevant activities. The events and projects registered by Culture of Peace actors are, however, not sponsored or officially endorsed by UNESCO: responsibility for them remains with the organizers. We invite all registered actors to update their profiles and to enter information on events and projects, which are related to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence! If you have lost your account number, please do not hesitate to contact us via cp@unesco.org.

Further Reading:

There is a great wealth of literature on gender and peace-building. Relevant books and documents have been mentioned in the different articles of this newsletter (see for instance "UNESCO, Gender and a Culture of Peace", "UNESCO's Work on Gender and Peace", and "News in Brief"). In addition to the documents mentioned there, recent texts have included the following:

- UN – S/2004/814, *Women, Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General* (UN, New York, 2004) - <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/534/14/PDF/N0453414.pdf>
- UN, *Women, Peace and Security. Study Submitted by the Secretary General; pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325* (UN, New York, 2002)
- Elisabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment* (UNIFEM, New York, 2002)
- Betty Reardon, *Education for a Culture of Peace in a Gender Perspective* (UNESCO, Paris, 2001)
- Further texts are available on the websites of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender-Equality (see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch>) and of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi>