

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

Questionnaire on the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

I

ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED BY OUR ORGANIZATION WITH REGARD TO PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE

- **ICJW Second Interfaith Conference in Sarajevo, post conflict area, September 2000, by our Interfaith and Intercultural Committee.**

Objectives : interreligious dialogue in a multi-ethnic society

Beneficiaries : Christian, (Catholic and Orthodox), Muslim and Jewish women

Location of activities : Bosnia- Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Results : Respect and mutual knowledge, tolerance, education to other religions , cultures and arts, bridges between the religious groups, a greater understanding of different faiths.

- **Home instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY) permanent programme.**

Objectives : integration of poor populations and immigrants empowering parents to become their child's primary educator.

Beneficiaries : parents in different countries all over the world, of different cultures.

Location of activities : home based structured programmes, partnership with town and local institutions.

Results : integrating whole families, personal promotion for parents, better results in schools for children from 3 to 6, training parents to be home co-ordinators for other parents.

- **Melbourne, Australia , four weeks programme, 2001 :**

Objectives : cultivating peace among peoples at all levels, through music, home, and community.

Beneficiaries : family in crisis, children and adolescents

Results : information on a network of supports system for women and children, victim of domestic abuse, cooperation between different organizations promoting the ideals of "the Culture of Peace" .

- **Activity groups of Muslim and Jewish women in conjunction with the Foundation for Islam and Dialogue, in Netherland.**

Beneficiaires: women of different faiths.

Location of activities : Amsterdam and the Hague.

Results : Knowledge of their differences and of what they have in common.

- **ICJW 12 th European Regional Conference, November 2003.**

"Women's vision of Peace".

Objectives : Dialogue and Peace, Education for Peace, Peace and medias, Peace practices.

Beneficiaries : Women participants from all over the world.

Results : mutual understanding and tolerance between women of different faith.

Wish for representation of women in the Peace debates in governments.

Promotion of education of children for tolerance, dialogue and Human rights.

Enhancing women's participation and active role in projects and programmes for Peace.

- **Middle East Children Association,(M.E.C.A.) a joint Israeli-Palestinian initiative, Geneva, 2004. Commission of Human Rights and ICJW.**

Objectives : Education for the sake of Peace, for cooperation, equality and partnership in building a better to-morrow,

Beneficiaries : Israeli and Palestinian children and their teachers. Binational programmes.

Results : education for children rights, non-violence, two narrations of history, face to face dialogue and mutual communication.

- **Family Law and Religious law in the Abrahamic Faiths. Bellagio, Italy, April 2004.**

Objectives : better understanding of the traditions of the Abrahamic faiths of the institution of marriage, encouraging solutions for protection of marriage and family, deepening of the interfaith dialogue on religious and family law, identifying experts for collaborative research and dialogue.

Beneficiaries : family members.

Results expected : social stability and world peace, equity and equal dignity for all family members.

2 - The key difficulties in ICJW are the constant fight against antisemitism and racism, the low progress of the status of women, the difficulties of face to face dialogue with people of different faiths and cultures, and the Middle East conflict area focusing all world attentions.

3 – Most important areas of action :

Fostering a culture of peace through education (see M.E.C.A.)

promoting sustainable economic and social development (see HIPPY)

Promoting respect for all, human rights, ensuring equality between men and women, advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity, promoting international peace and security, are our goals in all our actions listed above.

II

GENERAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE

4 – A very recent progress coming from communication of the knowledge of the obstacles to overcome for a better life together and on the issue of women's responsibility in all affairs.

5 – The major obstacles for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence are hatred and intolerance.

6 – Medium and long-term progress has been duly evaluated in the HIPPY programme which is now spread in many other different countries.

A large progress in the participation of education teachers at Middle East Children Association, counting now 450 teachers on each side.

III

PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

7 – We work mostly with partners of other cultures and Faiths, Muslims and Christians institutions, for our goals.

Now more men partners are taking part in our actions, it is most important to associate both genders for progress. There is also cooperation between different NGOs with the same goals.

8 – Yes, we know UNESCO's website on the International Decade for a culture of Peace. Furthermore, our ICJW delegates to UNESCO work in the UNESCO Joint Programmatic Commission on Dialogue between cultures for the sake of Peace. Its President will certainly detail its current activities and programmes.

IV

COMMITMENT TOWARDS NEW INITIATIVES AND NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

9 – New projects :

Family law and Religious law in the Abrahamic Faiths, agreed to at Bellagio, Italy, in April 2004.

10 – Priority domains for fostering a culture of peace are education of children, for advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity. empowerment of women by ensuring equality between women and men.

11 – Over the next five years, culture of peace should in our opinion be approached with more communication and information on its objectives, with the partnership of all medias and arts, particularly music which spreads so easily among the young people of different cultures.